



# **THIS I'LL DEFEND**

## **The Story of the Kincaids**

by  
**BILL KINCAID**

drawings by  
**ERIC KINCAID**



With best wishes,

Gill Cantam

---





*Copy No. 295*

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**BILL KINCAID**

Drawings by  
**ERIC KINCAID**

Published by  
**TheSAURAS Ltd**

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This book is respectfully dedicated to:

**OLIVIA BRISBIN**

without whose help and enthusiasm  
this book may never have been written





## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bill Kincaid joined the Army in 1959 and, after two years at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, was commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Artillery. He gained a BA in Mechanical Sciences at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge and this was followed by a Master's degree in 1965. He then served in a variety of artillery regiments in UK, Germany, Cyprus and Hong Kong before commanding a Lance nuclear missile battery. He graduated from Division 1 of the Army Staff Course, and later the National Defence College. For the majority of the second half of his career, he served in various appointments in the Ministry of Defence in operational requirements and the procurement executive, where in his last appointment he was responsible for stating the requirements for all land systems equipment. He was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1995.

On leaving the Service, he formed his own company to advise the Ministry and the defence industry on matters affecting equipment procurement, a subject on which he has become a well-known authority, lecturing widely and publishing three controversial but best-selling books. He is a keen gardener, choral singer and sportsman, still playing cricket at a high standard.

Bill Kincaid began to research his family history in 1960 and, spending a great deal of time in Scottish libraries and other record offices, slowly built up an extensive data base of Kincaid records. It was then his great good fortune to make contact with Olivia Brisbin who was also researching the family, and their correspondence was instrumental in taking Kincaid research forward rapidly, even when he was stationed in the Far East. By 1975, he had begun to write a family history but the loss of contact with Mrs. Brisbin and increasing calls on his time from other activities led to a long break from family research. It was not until Peter Kincaid made contact with him in early 2002, that he resumed this work.

The opportunity to finish the book came in the autumn of 2002, with a deadline imposed by the family gathering that was arranged to take place in Scotland in August 2003.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Eric Kincaid, a descendant of the Falkirk Kincaids, was born in London in 1931. He graduated from Gravesend Art School with a National Diploma in Design and Process Reproduction. His specialist study was early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Illustration.

After completing National Service in the Royal Air Force, he established himself as a freelance illustrator. It was not long, however, before he found himself spending more and more of his time illustrating children's books. His versatility of style and superb eye for detail have made him one of the most successful artists in this field.

His titles have appeared in 14 languages and world-wide sales exceed 8 million copies. Among his best-known books are *Eric Kincaid's Book of Nursery Rhymes*, *A Children's Book of Verse* and *Aesop's Fables*, each of these titles having sales of more than 500,000 copies.





Madam Arabella Kincaid of Kincaid.



## FOREWORD

by

**Madam Arabella Kincaid of Kincaid**

Kincaids have, as our proud motto declares, defended much over the past millennium or so. That the wider Kincaid family is in such good shape as I write this, is in part testament to this. Despite this remarkable heritage and a current sense of Clan cohesiveness, Kincaids have not been especially good at preserving much of the colourful detail of their inheritance in written form. This is an oversight that this book excellently corrects.

This is especially timely because, as societal, political and geographical bonds seem to become ever weaker, our ancient family bonds can keep us together in an extraordinary and profound way. Indeed family ties transcend so much that could otherwise separate us – and that is what makes them unique. Families are, at their best, a source of nurture, encouragement, support and understanding – the one institution we can rely on during difficulty and crisis. In a world where recognised standards seem under threat like never before, our attitudes towards the family should reflect its position as the precious institution that it is.

This book plays a special role in helping to do this for the wider Kincaid family, and does an excellent job in correcting the many unfortunate omissions of our ancestors, such as the dispersal and disposal of important records, and the tragedy of the 1812 fire that destroyed so much Kincaid family history. It cleverly draws together, in refreshingly accessible and interesting form, a vast tranche of knowledge of our kinsmen and forbears. It is a celebration of the diversity, talents and achievements of numerous Kincaids over many centuries. It also provides a very useful springboard for further research.

So I strongly commend this book to you. The Kincaids have an extended and ancient family history, and present-day togetherness, of which we can be very proud and of which few other families can boast. We should make every effort to hold on to this past whilst looking to the future and playing a part in creating a more peaceful world.

Madam Arabella Kincaid of Kincaid



## PREFACE

I took my first faltering footsteps into family research in about 1958. I well remember that almost the first book I opened in the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh was *The Dictionary of National Biography* in which there were just two Kincaid entries: Sir John Kincaid of the Rifle Brigade and Jean Kincaid, murderess. I am not sure which intrigued me more.

I continued my desultory research whenever I could over the next few years, gathering a large amount of data but not being very successful in joining it all up. I then had the good fortune to make contact with Olivia Brisbin, who had spent a huge amount of time and effort in researching the Kincaids, and her information in many instances complemented my own, so that together we were able to make major strides, despite the fact that, for two and a half years, I was stationed on the other side of the world in Hong Kong. It was her enthusiasm and expertise that carried me forward when I might have let it drift. I also made contact with Hilda Kincaid in Canada who was researching her ancestors from Ireland and, as they were closely related to my own forbears, she too helped me move forward.

I then most unfortunately lost touch with both, but by then I had started to sketch out a history of the Kincaids and even to write the first chapters. Then career and other pursuits pushed family research to one side for many years and it was not until Peter Kincaid in Canada contacted me out of the blue or, rather through the internet, that I again had real reason to dig out my old notebooks and files. Through him, I heard about the Clan Gathering in Scotland in August 2003, when he asked me to take his place and talk on that occasion to the assembled Kincaids. Here was the motivation to finish my book. For the last four months I have pushed all other work aside to finish the book in time to get it published before the Kincaids assemble at Kincaid House on 9<sup>th</sup> August. It is proving a tight run thing.

One unexpected delight that came from my contact with Peter was the renewal of my acquaintance with Olivia Brisbin through e-mails to her son James, who is organising the trip to Scotland this year. I am only sorry that she cannot make the trip so that we turn our pen-friendship into acquaintance in the flesh.

These three people, Olivia, Hilda and Peter, have therefore played a crucial part in getting the book to the starting blocks and I cannot thank them enough.

I am also most grateful to the distinguished artist, Eric Kincaid, for providing the wonderful drawings for the start of each chapter. They really lift the whole book. His career details and ancestry are covered elsewhere in the book.

There are many others who have helped in important ways. Madam Arabella Kincaid of Kincaid welcomed my wife and me to her house most warmly and let me browse through her card index of Kincaids, the Peareth Ledgers and many other



documents in her possession. Noel Kincade of Co. Antrim in Ireland has provided a great deal of information on the Irish and Australian Kincades, while Paul Kinkead, also from Northern Ireland, sent me packets of documents on his Kinkead ancestors. Regrettably, and in spite of his efforts and those of Professor Mark Kinkead-Weekes, I was not able to link Paul's Kinkeads to the family of Kinkead-Weekes, from whom the famous pilot, 'Kink' Kinkead, sprang. In fact it was through a chance meeting with Dr. Julian Lewis MP that I heard all about 'Kink' for the first time, for Julian has played the central role in bringing 'Kink's' extraordinary exploits to wider appreciation.

My attempts to flesh out the story of Sir John Kincaid started at the Rifle Brigade archives in Winchester where Major Ron Cassidy was so helpful. Through him, I was able to contact Robert Floyd who kindly allowed me to photograph his painting of the great soldier, as well as providing me with much information on the Kincaid-Smiths. And it was through him that I was able to contact Maria Carnegie who has been researching the life and family of Sir John Kincaid for many years and who provided me with much valuable information, as well as correcting my chapter on him.

The Lord Lyon kindly allowed me to photograph several armorial bearings in the Lyon Register, a task made all the easier for the help given me by Elizabeth Roads, Lyon Clerk, who also gently but firmly put me to rights on a number of points relating to arms and tartan.

I am indebted to a number of libraries and museums for their help. There are too many to mention, but the following people went out of their way to help: Paul Evans at the Royal Artillery library at Woolwich; Valerie Boa at the McLean Museum in Greenock; Steve Kerr at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh; Mary Guy at the Royal Air Force College Cranwell; William Dobbin and Amanda Moreno at the Royal Irish Fusiliers Museum in Armagh; Carol Morgan at the Institution of Civil Engineers; and Duncan Winning of the Ballast Trust.

Special mention must be made of the Carson Clark Gallery in Edinburgh who lent me old maps and prints for use as illustrations in this book.

Finally, I owe a great deal to my family: to my sister, Rosemary Gordon, for editing our father's letters; to my wife for spending days on end in libraries and taking on endless odd jobs; and to my daughter who, despite travelling throughout the Americas at the crucial time, has edited this book in far from ideal conditions.

I am most conscious that the book may well be inaccurate in many places, but I have attempted to make it clear where the records are not conclusive. I have also provided copious footnotes to the text and references to the genealogical tables in an attempt to show future researchers where my information came from. I am also conscious that the book is hopelessly incomplete. If I had had another month, another year, another decade, I know that I could have produced a fuller account of the family. But it would still have been incomplete, for research is never finished. I am therefore grateful for the deadline that the family gathering this August has imposed – it has made me let go.

I hope that the book will prove both informative and enjoyable to read. But I also hope that it will inspire all those who read it to go out and research their own ancestors more thoroughly, and to join their findings with that of others. We have an

excellent website and a thriving Clan Association which should provide assistance, and I will be interested in any useful information that can tie together Kincaids around the world with ancestors in the British Isles. Do let me know.

Bill Kincaid  
31 March 2003

**NOTE ON SPELLING AND LANGUAGE**

Until at least the mid-17th century, spelling was rather a hit-or-miss affair, depending on the scribe. I have tried to keep spelling of names and places consistent in my text, but have left the spelling in the quotations unaltered.

I have attempted to preserve the flavour of the old language in quotations, but have altered them where necessary to aid clarity and ease of reading. I hope that I have achieved this without too much alteration.



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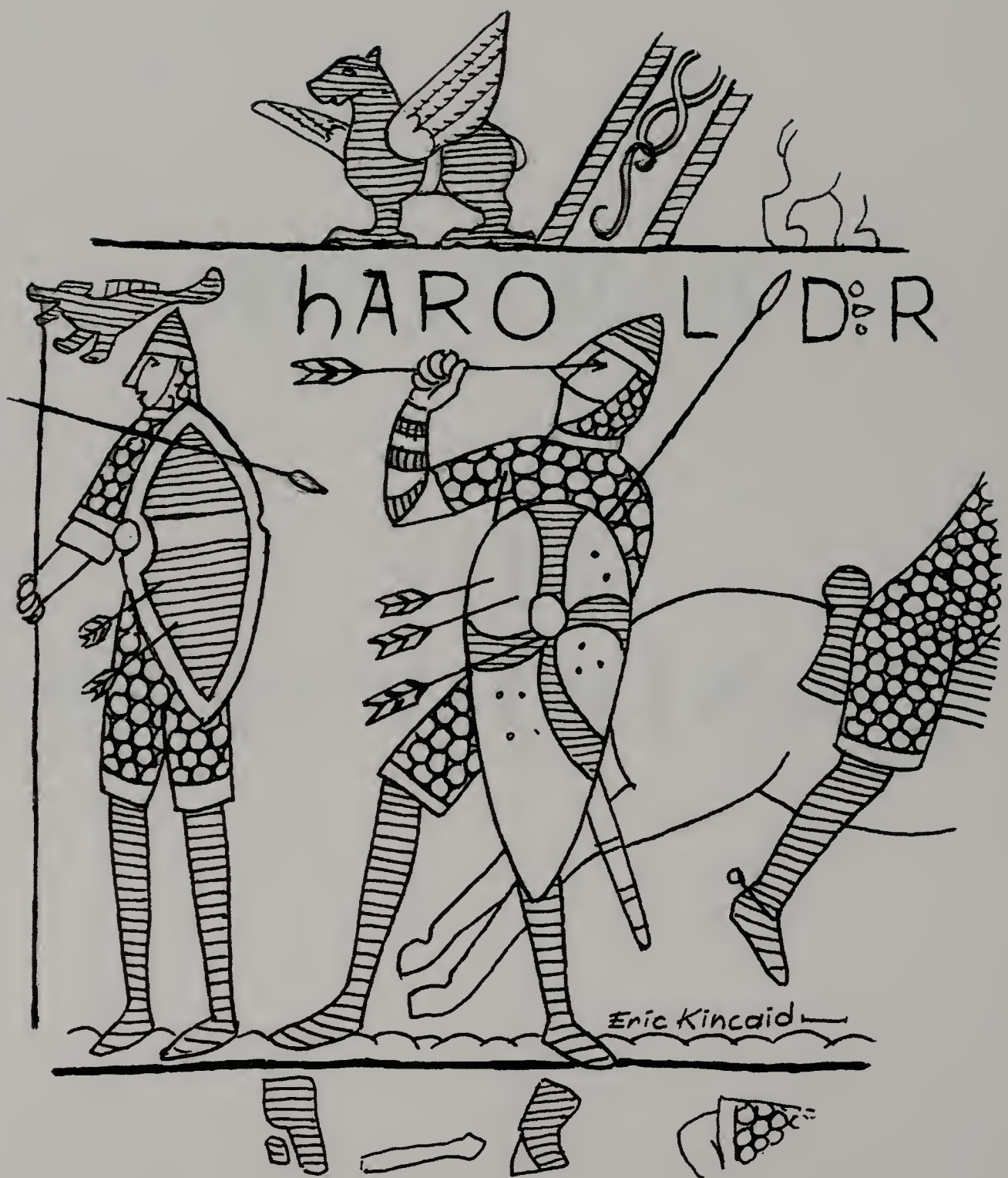




# **PART ONE**

## **THE LANDOWNERS**





# CHAPTER ONE

## THE MISTS OF HISTORY

It is 1066. The crown of England sits uneasily on the head of Harold. Newly crowned, he is aware that others, across the waters, view that crown as their right, and that there is the threat of invasion from two different sources. To the north-east, the successors of Canute in Norway see the opportunity to renew their sovereignty, while to the south the ambitious William of Normandy eyes the English throne he had been promised by Harold's predecessor, Edward the Confessor. While William sits with his invasion force in Norman ports awaiting a favourable wind, King Hardrada of Norway sails to Scotland on a recruiting mission to swell his forces. Harold does not know which force will strike first. He waits in London.

Now news comes that Hardrada has landed in the north, beaten the local levies under Earls Edwin and Morcar, and is encamped at Stamford Bridge near York. Harold acts fast. Five days later, after a march of 200 miles, he confronts the Norwegian army and routs them. But at the very moment of victory comes the news that William of Normandy has landed in Kent. Harold retreads the 200-mile journey to London in seven days, gathering all the forces he can. He knows that Earls Edwin and Morcar are hurrying south, but he cannot rely on their loyalty. Fearing that they might join William, he moves south without them to confront the Norman invader. The battle near Hastings is hard-fought but, by the time that Harold is pierced in the eye by an arrow, William is master of the field.

The battle is over. Harold is dead. The Norman has conquered. On Christmas Day, he is crowned King of England.

### **Archil and the Northern Rebellion**

*Associated Genealogical Table Number 1 is at page 263.*

William pursued a ruthless policy towards those that continued to oppose him, and soon subdued most of England. But in Wales, in the Ely fens and



especially in the north, William held little sway. The north was still ruled by Earls Edwin and Morcar, together with other Saxon lords Merleswain, Gospatric, Waldeve, Edgar Atheling and Archil.

“Now we know from Orderic, that Robert FitzRichard, the constable of York Castle, presumably under William Mallet, was slain with his men at the commencement of the northern uprising of 1069; that following the massacre at Durham on 28 January. Merleswain, then or later the Sheriff of Lincoln, Earls Gospatric and Waldeve, Edgar Atheling, Archil, and the four sons of Karle were joined by Harald, Canute and Beorm, the sons of Swain, King of Denmark, Earl Osborn their uncle, Christian a Danish bishop and 240 ships which arrived in the Humber from Denmark.”<sup>1</sup>

William immediately marched north. Having defeated the rebels, he laid waste the whole region from coast to coast and hunted down all opposition. The Saxon lords were killed or fled. But one of these lords, Archil son of Egfrith, who owned large tracts of Northumberland and Yorkshire and was a wealthy man for his time,<sup>2</sup> is supposed to have made his peace with William. This seems unlikely as William was in no mood to spare his enemies, but if it was so, either he or William must have reneged on their agreement, for Archil is said to have fled to Scotland in 1072. In 1086, all Archil's lands were in the King's hands or described as waste in the Domesday Book.

“Before the Conquest, Archil held Mortun [Morton in Skelton near York], assessed at three carucates. It was worth 10 shillings, but at the Survey it was waste. It seems to have remained in Crown hands until it was given to Patric de Gainges by Henry I.”<sup>3</sup>

The Domesday Book lists Archil's properties and their holders in 1086. The manor at Hopperton was held by Erneis de Burun, that at Seamer by the Count of Mortain; the King held the land at Goulton, at Marton, at Faceby and at Thoraldby; while the manors at Loft Marishes and Thornton de Clay are listed as having no holders and were presumably by then wasteland.

### The Earls of Lennox

Archil had lost all his possessions, but King Malcolm of Scotland apparently welcomed him and gave him large tracts of land in what later became the counties of Dunbarton and Stirling.

<sup>1</sup> *Early Yorkshire Charters*, volume I, page 362.

<sup>2</sup> Much of this chapter is based on two sources: *The Lennox* by Sir William Fraser, Edinburgh, 1874; and *The Scottish Nation* by William Anderson.

<sup>3</sup> *Early Yorkshire Charters*, volume I, page 332.

Archil's son or grandson, Alwyn, was well known at the Scottish court and was raised to the dignity of earl by the King to become the first Earl of Lennox. His son, also called Alwyn, was the second Earl and married Eva, daughter of Gilchrist, Earl of Monteith. This second Earl of Lennox was young at his father's death and seems to have held the earldom for over 60 years when he died in 1224.

The relations between the Scottish monarch and the Earl of Lennox remained close, and the third Earl, Alwyn's son Maldwin, was a very important man. Not only was he the landlord of a vast estate, but he was also a major benefactor to the church. He married Elizabeth Stuart, the daughter of the High Steward of Scotland.

“... Maldouin or Maldwin, third earl of Lennox, was one of the guarantees on the part of King Alexander II when the differences between that monarch and Henry III of England were accommodated in 1237. Up to this time, the strong castle of Dunbarton had been the principal messuage of the earls of Lennox but, after 1238, when he received a new charter of the earldom, it no longer belonged to them, nor the harbour, territory and the fisheries of Murrach contiguous to it.”<sup>4</sup>

Up to this point in our story the facts are reasonably well documented and, although contested by some experts, they have been strongly supported by others. The next stage, however, is more problematic.

### **Galbraith and Kincaid**

In 1956, Robert B. Kincaid of Minneapolis, Minnesota, pulled together a document showing the lineage from Egfrith to Robert Kincaid of that ilk in 1448. Although he gives many references, his main source of information was Dr Herbert C. Kincaid, Councillor Emeritus of the National Genealogical Society of the United States. Regrettably, any references that Dr Kincaid had used as the basis of his work are not recorded, so, while Robert B. Kincaid makes the assumption that the work is reasonably accurate, this may or may not be the case, and we would be well advised to treat the relationships derived with some care. Indeed, without Dr Kincaid's references, we should not accept his findings unless supported by other sources.

The first question concerns the descendants of Maldwin, third Earl of Lennox:

“The original Galbraith was most probably one of the British race settled among the Gaels. Gillescop Galbraith witnessed the gifts by Maldowen, son

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<sup>4</sup> *The Scottish Nation*, William Anderson, volume II, page 647.



of Alwyn, Earl of Levenax, of the church of Kemsie [Campsie] to God and S. Kentigern, c.1208-1214. In an earlier charter, but within the same period, by Alwyn, Earl of Levenax of the same church he appears as Gillescop Galbrad 'nepote nostro'. As Gillescop Gallebrad, he witnessed a charter by Maldouen, Earl of Levenax to Robert Herthford in 1224. Maldouen, the earl in 1238 granted to William, son of Arthur, son of Galbrat, three carucates<sup>5</sup> of land in Lennox, viz. the two Buthernockis and Kyncaith. About 1246 or earlier Gillaspic Gallebrad witnessed grants of lands of Colquhoun to Umfridus de Kilpatrick and about the same date, Earl Maldouen granted to Maurice, son of Gillaspic and Arthur, his son, a quarter land in Auchincloich [Auchinreoch?]"<sup>6</sup>

It is clear that Gillaspic Gallebrad (or Galbraith) existed, that he was close to the Earl of Lennox and that his grandson William was given the lands of Kincaid in 1238.

This is apparently the first mention of Kincaid. But the question is: Who was this man, Gillaspie Galbraith? Was he a younger son of the Earl, or was he completely unrelated to the Lennoxes?

"In 1230 when Alexander III was king, Earl Maldwin (3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Lennox) by charter, granted to Maurice Galbret, son of his senescallus, Gillespie Galbret, the lands of Cartenbenach."<sup>7</sup>

Gillespie was, therefore, the Earl's Steward and as such he would have been a very powerful and influential man. Is it not probable that the Earl would have appointed a close family member to such an important post? We may never know, but it seems a reasonable bet that Galbraith was closely related to the third Earl of Lennox and therefore a descendant of the Saxon lord Egfrith. This is supported by the wording of a charter by Alwyn, Earl of Lennox to Gillescop Galbrand 'nepote nostro', which means 'our nephew'. It is interesting, too, that the name Galbraith is said to mean 'foreign Briton', possibly because of a Saxon origin. There is, however, no evidence that William, son of Arthur, son of Galbraith took his surname from the Kincaid lands that he was given in 1238.

How long the Galbraiths held Kincaid is not clear, for in 1253 the land was in the possession of David de Graham.

"Perhaps the most interesting 'inner' member of this government [in 1252] was David de Graham, representative of a junior branch of the Graham family ... By 1253, however, he had acquired a string of lands lying just south of the

<sup>5</sup> A carucate was a measure of land that could be ploughed in a year and a day by one plough, usually amounting to about 120 acres.

<sup>6</sup> *The Surnames of Scotland*, George Black, New York, 1962, page 285.

<sup>7</sup> *The Parish of Campsie*, John Cameron, JR Publications, Kirkintilloch, 1892, page 183.



Forth: ... [including] a substantial barony (Kincaid, Killearn and Strathblane) in the east of the Lennox and bordering on the Comyn lordship of Lenzie ... He was a 'new' man who had risen fast – one can only suspect that he speculated in land – and he took care to protect his acquisitions by securing a royal confirmation of eighteen separate donations in December 1253.”<sup>8</sup>

However, these were troubled times and, in 1255, the Comyn faction, including David de Graham, was swept from power and removed from all office and favour. It appears that the lands of Kincaid returned to the Galbraiths before 1280.

“The Galbraiths parted with their Kyncade lands after having possessed them for forty-two years, and we next find that another family then acquired them by a charter from Maldwin, fourth Earl of Lennox, in 1280, and this family then took their surname from their property. These Kyncade lands stretched from the Glazert to the Kelvin.”<sup>9</sup>

There is a further reference to this charter:

“The Kincaids were in possession of Kincaid in 1280 as is proved by a charter extant ...”<sup>10</sup>

However, this charter has not yet been traced and the date is approximate. But here lies the next question: Who was this new family?

William Galbraith died in about 1280,<sup>11</sup> and so it is probable that the charter was to his heir. However, it is possible that he died without heirs and the lands reverted to the Earl of Lennox who then gave a charter to another family. Either way, it is likely that the new owner of Kincaid was another close relative of the Galbraiths and the Earl of Lennox, rather than of a totally unrelated family. This cannot be proven, of course, but again, it is highly likely that the first person to adopt the surname of Kincaid was descended from the Earls of Lennox and the Saxon lord Egfrith.

If this is so, then this first Kincaid would have been a close relative of William Galbraith. However, we have no clear record of such a Kincaid, but we do have one admittedly rather vague mention of a Sir William Kincaid of Kincaid.<sup>12</sup> In the late 1920s or early 1930s, Peter Kincaid of Milton-of-Campsie attempted to prove himself Chief of the name but his case failed in the Court of the Lord Lyon. Nevertheless he did gather a large amount

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<sup>8</sup> *Scotland, the Making of the Kingdom*, Archibald Duncan, Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh, 1975, pages 562-563.

<sup>9</sup> *The Parish of Campsie*, John Cameron, JR Publications, Kirkintilloch, 1892, page 183.

<sup>10</sup> *History of Stirlingshire*, William Nimmo, Thomas D. Morison, Glasgow, 1880, volume 2, page 98.

<sup>11</sup> *The Lennox*, William Fraser, Edinburgh, 1874, volume 2, pages 16-17.

<sup>12</sup> The papers of Peter Kincaid, of Mid-Muckcroft Cottage, Milton-of-Campsie.

of Kincaid genealogy. The earliest name he records is Sir William Kincaid of Kincaid in 1300. Regrettably, he provided no reference and no other record has been traced. There was a William Kincaid of Kincaid who died almost exactly two hundred years later; did he miscopy the date?

In 1306, Patrick Kincaid de eodum [of that Ilk] is mentioned in a Glasgow document dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July of that year.<sup>13</sup> He could have been the son of Sir William and the second Laird of Kincaid. However, this record is problematical and may also be incorrectly dated, referring to the Patrick Kincaid of that Ilk in 1506.

In 1381, another William of Galbrath is on record:

“To all who shall hear or see this charter, William of Galbrath, lord of Katconvall [Gartconnel] greeting:- He has given and granted to his dearest son, James of Galbrath, one carucate of land and the fourth part of a carucate viz. that half of Estyr Bothernokis [Easter Baldernock], viz. that half lying nearer Kelvyne, and the half of Westyr Botternokis, viz. that half lying nearer ‘la more’ and the fourth part of Kyncade, viz. that fourth part lying nearer Kelvyne on the west part, with the half of the mill of Kyncade, and pertinents ... to be held by the said James and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten ... 10 October 1381.”<sup>14</sup>

Clearly, the Galbraiths still held part of Kincaid, but who held the rest? The Galbraiths? The Grahams? Or another family? We do not know. And there is no clear record of Kincaids of Kincaid, or even Kincaids, until 1447.

The genealogical descent with all its question marks is shown in Table 1 at page 263. In considering the ancestry of the Kincaid family, we must ask, and answer, two questions:

- Were the Earls of Lennox descended from Archil, the Saxon lord?
- Were the Kincaids descended from the Earls of Lennox?

We do not know the answers to these questions, but I believe that both can be answered with ‘probably’. If you take this view, then you can support a Saxon origin for the Kincaids. However, you may think that there are too many uncertainties here and that the almost complete lack of records of Kincaids before 1447 suggests that this traditional history may be incorrect.

<sup>13</sup> Diocesan Registers of Glasgow.

<sup>14</sup> *The Stirlings of Craigbernard and Glorat*, Joseph Bain, Edinburgh, page 62.



### A Crawford Descent?

Certainly, Peter A. Kincaid<sup>15</sup> of Hampton in Canada believes it makes sense to explore other possibilities. He has suggested that the Kincaids were in fact descended from the Crawfords and cites numerous connections with that family. The arms of the two families are similar, the difference being the castle on the Kincaid arms, but the only record which appears to tie the two families together is from 1480:

“... John of kincade crauford”.<sup>16</sup>

On its own, this record might well be no more than a clerical error. However, Peter Kincaid cites other possible Crawford connections which, taken together, seem to make the case for full investigation. There are, however, a number of problems which will need to be eliminated, or plausibly explained, before this origin can be accepted.

The first is the suggestion that the reason for the lack of Kincaid records before 1447 is that they were Crawfords until that date. However, if a Crawford acquired the lands of Kincaid in the 1440s, is it likely that he would have changed his existing surname? Moreover, if one Kincaid was brought into being at that date, how is it possible that there were suddenly so many Kincaids scattered about: at Kincaid, in Bothkennar, in Lithlithgow, in Edinburgh and elsewhere? And, if a Crawford acquired the lands of Kincaid, and took the name of Kincaid in the 1440s, where is the charter recording it?

Certainly, the possible link to the Crawfords needs further exploration but, until satisfactory answers to the above questions can be provided, descent from Archil and the Earls of Lennox would appear to be the more likely origin of the Kincaids, and it is the one that has been held traditionally. It is this origin that this history will assume, while acknowledging that much more evidence is required before anything definite can be accepted.

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<sup>15</sup> [www.alphalink.com.au](http://www.alphalink.com.au)

<sup>16</sup> *The Acts of the Lords of Council in Civil Cases 1478-1495*, London, 1839, pages 77-78.





## CHAPTER TWO

# THE EARLY LAIRDS

As has been seen in the previous chapter, the first Laird of Kincaid acquired (bought or inherited) Kincaid in about 1280. Dr H.C. Kincaid states that this man was Patrick, son of Arthur, son of William Galbraith, who married the daughter of Sir Patrick Graham whose dowery was the return of a slice of Kincaid land. He goes on to state that Patrick was appointed Constable of Edinburgh Castle by Alexander III, an important post which would have shown the confidence the Scottish kings had in the Kincaids at this period. He says Patrick had a son, Arthur, who became Constable of Edinburgh Castle after his father, but lost the post when he backed the wrong side in the disputed succession after the Maid of Norway's death, John Balliol dispossessing him and handing the castle to the English. According to the same source, Arthur had a son called Francis.

But it must be reiterated that there is no clear evidence for the existence of Patrick Kincaid of Kincaid or of his son Arthur or of their appointments as Constable of Edinburgh Castle. But if Dr H.C. Kincaid is correct, Arthur's son Francis would have lived at the Castle and had intimate knowledge of its geography.

### **The Taking of Edinburgh Castle**

Between 1296, when Balliol became king, and 1313, the battle for Scotland, between Edward I and II on one hand and William Wallace and Robert Bruce on the other, raged on. Stirling Bridge, and later Bannockburn, undid the work of English victories at Berwick and Falkirk. But Edinburgh Castle remained in the hands of the English, impregnable and a gloomy reminder of England's power. And then on 14 March 1313,

“... the Earl of Moray took by assault the Castle of Edinburgh which had been in the possession of the English since 1296. This celebrated fortress, which

before the invention of artillery was deemed impregnable, was then commanded by Sir Piers Leland, a knight of Gascony, in the service of the King of England. The garrison was strong, well disciplined and resolute, and Randolph endeavoured at first to reduce the place by famine. But, finding it well provisioned, he opened a communication with the governor, and the garrison, suspecting the fidelity of the latter, deposed and imprisoned him and chose another commander in his place. Randolph then resolved upon taking the castle by surprise. Among his soldiers was one named Francis. This man, whom Barbour designates as 'wicht and apert, wyas and cauryss' – that is strong, active, prudent and skilful, was well acquainted with the castle rock, which he had often scaled in his youth, while engaged in a love affair in the city. One day when Randolph was surveying the castle from below, he came to him and thus addressed him, 'Methinks, my lord, you would rejoice if someone were to devise some means of putting this fortress into your possession, or show you how these walls could be scaled.' 'Thou sayest truly,' replied the Earl, 'and could such a man be found, I pledge myself that his services should be amply rewarded, not only by me but by my royal uncle.' 'The generosity of the king and of thyself, noble Randolph,' said the soldier, 'is well known, but the love of country should be able such a consideration. Know that I can enable you to enter the castle with no greater aid than what a twelve-foot ladder affords. If you wish to know how this can be done, I shall explain it in a few words. Know then, that my father in my youth was keeper of yonder fortress, and that I, then a wild gallant, loved a certain maid in the town beneath. That I might repair to her when I pleased, I was wont to lower myself from yonder wall by night with the help of a ladder of ropes, which I procured for the purpose, and by a secret path which I discovered, descended, returning by the same way unperceived by the garrison. I did this so often that I could find my way in the darkest night. If, therefore, you should think of trying to obtain access to the castle in this manner, I will be your guide.' The earl, resolved to hazard the attempt, and associating Sir Andrew Gray with himself in the enterprise, he selected thirty men, and during a very dark night they proceeded to scale the rocks. The place chosen for this perilous exploit is supposed to have been somewhere about the north-east side, facing what is now Prince's Street, and overhanging the ruins of the well-house tower, above which is part of the rock of extremely difficult access, popularly called Wallace's Cradle.

When the little party were halfway up the crags, they came to a flat spot covered by a projecting rock, where they stopped to recover their breath, and prepare for the more dangerous part of the adventure. While arranging their scaling ladder, they distinctly heard the rounds, or check watches, as Barbour calls them, passing along the walls above them. It chanced that one of the English soldiers, in mere wantonness and levity, and without any suspicion that there was anyone beneath, took up a stone and threw it from the battlements down on the cliffs, exclaiming at the same time, 'Away! I see you well!' Randolph and his companions had the presence of mind to remain where they were, and the sentinels passed on their usual rounds. The adventurers resumed their ascent and arrived in safety at the foot of the wall. They fixed





Edinburgh c.1600

their ladder and Francis, their guide, ascended first, after him came Sir Andrew Gray and Randolph himself was third. They were speedily followed by the rest of the party. The sentinels, hearing the ringing of armour, took the alarm and raised the cry of 'Treason'. The garrison ran to arms, and the new governor of the castle, whose name had not been transmitted, and others rushed to the spot. A desperate combat ensued, and Earl Randolph was for a time in great personal danger. Barbour tells us that,

The constable and his company  
Met him and his right hardily.

Taken by surprise and not knowing, in the darkness, the number of their opponents, many of the garrison fled over the walls, while others, with the governor himself, were slain. Not one of Randolph's party appears to have been killed."<sup>17</sup>

Whether this William Francis was in fact a Kincaid is open to doubt. But it does seem likely that a Kincaid may have been one of the thirty men involved in this raid as the story has been handed down from generation to generation for hundreds of years. As early as 1646 a birth brief recorded the episode:

<sup>17</sup> *The Scottish Nation*, William Anderson.



“I find an old birth brieve, signed by several honorable persons, in favour of Mr Andrew Monteith: it is wrote thus, that he was the son of Alexander Monteith of Collochburn, and his wife Janet Kincaid, lawful daughter to David Kincaid, lineally and lawfully descended of the House of the Laird of Kincaid, chief of the name, whose predecessor, for his valiant service in recovering of the Castle of Edinburgh from the English, in the time of King Edward was made Constable of the said castle, and his posterity enjoyed that office for many years, carrying the castle in their arms in memory thereof to this day.”<sup>18</sup>

Old birth briefs or birth records are well known to be inaccurate, but more often than not, the general thrust of the record is correct. We shall never know, perhaps, whether the William Francis who guided the attacking party up the castle walls was in fact William or Francis Kincaid, a son (or at least a close kinsman) of the Laird of Kincaid, but it does seem probable that a Kincaid played a major part in the storming of the Castle, that he was subsequently made Constable of the Castle, was perhaps knighted, and was given or assumed the right to bear the castle on his arms. The castle is a feature on all recorded Kincaid arms from the earliest times.

“It seems that the castle represents that of Edinburgh.”<sup>19</sup>

“The seal of Robert, son of Stephen, portioner of Broughton has merely a castle, triple towered on a mount, being nearly the arms of the Burgh of Edinburgh.”<sup>20</sup>

Because of the lack of any record that a Kincaid was involved in this assault in 1313, it has been suggested that a Kincaid might have been involved instead in another assault on Edinburgh Castle. This seems unlikely as no other such assault is on record.

“The event was, of course, in the reign of Edward II of England, on 14 March 1313; there was no such event in the reign of Edward I [1272-1307]”.<sup>21</sup>

The only other instance of a successful assault on the castle, when it was in the hands of the English, was in April 1341, but this was achieved by a party of men, disguised as merchants bringing supplies to the castle, who dropped their load at the castle gates making it impossible to close them or lower the portcullis; whereupon a larger party stationed nearby stormed through the open gates. Some reports state that the English garrison had already left.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>18</sup> *A System of Heraldry*, Alexander Nisbet, Edinburgh, 1816, volume 1, page 411–412.

<sup>19</sup> *A System of Heraldry*, Alexander Nisbet, Edinburgh, 1816, volume 1, page 411–412.

<sup>20</sup> *Scottish Arms*, R.R. Stodart, William Patterson, Edinburgh, 1881, volume II.

<sup>21</sup> Letter to Olivia Brisbin from Sir James Ferguson, Keeper of the Records of Scotland, 2 Oct 1963.

<sup>22</sup> *Edinburgh Castle*, Chris Tabraham, Historic Scotland, Haddington, 2001, page 23.



After 1341, change of ownership of the castle seems to have been made by treaty, not assault; and for long periods of time, it was regarded as neutral in the struggles between the various factions in Scotland.

The 1341 assault bears so little relation to the climb up the sheer rock face by Randolph's party, that it is unlikely to be the assault that has lived in Kincaid tradition for so long. The 1313 assault, the only other successful storming that appears to have taken place in this period, is therefore almost certainly the one in which a Kincaid played a part. Whether this Kincaid was William or Francis is uncertain.

### **Silence 1280-1447**

Although the Kincaids appear to have inherited the Kincaid lands in about 1280, there follows a period of nearly 170 years during which nothing is recorded about them, apart from the mention of the Kyncade lands in 1381, when William Galbraith granted part of the lands to his son James of Galbraith. This period was a time of civil war, tribal feuds and ineffectual rule by the kings of Scotland. In 1314, Bannockburn finally convinced the English of the futility of trying to unite the two kingdoms by force, but it was not until 1328 that Bruce was recognised as King of Scotland by the English. It seemed as if peace had come to Scotland, but a year later Bruce was dead, and his son, aged five, became King David II. A disastrous minority was followed by 30 years of ineffectual rule. Robert II and III were men of weak character. Robert III's son, James, was held captive by the English for 18 years after Robert's death, Scotland having no effective king during this time.

Whether the absence of Kincaid records is a result of these lawless years is not clear. Records could have been burnt or otherwise destroyed in the turmoil; or they might have been amongst the crates of documents, along with the Stone of Destiny, that King Edward I of England took away in 1296; or the charters may never have been made.

After 18 years in English captivity, James I returned to Scotland in 1424 and tried, with some success, to re-establish the power of the Scottish kings. After 13 years, however he was assassinated and again the throne passed to a child. It was not until this child, James II, was approaching his majority that some order was brought out of the chaos. In 1447, James II was seventeen and beginning to assert his strength. In 1447 we find the first mention of a Kincaid.





Map of Kincaid and the surrounding area



# Spotlight I

## The Kincaid Lands

To the north and west of Glasgow stretches the Lennox country, which:

“... can give a remarkable range of lochside scenery; Loch Lomond, Loch Ard, Loch Chon and Loch Arklet are set like massive diamonds in the heart of the region; its fringes are washed by Loch Catrine, the Lake of Menteith, the Gareloch and Loch Long. Its moors and mountains are free as the air. The tramper may loiter on the slopes of Ben Lomond where Rob Roy had his home, on Ben Venue over which the Macgregors drove their stolen kyloes, on the Campsie Fells where witches and warlocks had communion with the devil, or on Luss Hills where the fairies of Highland superstition lived.”<sup>23</sup>

Within this tract of Lennox country lie the lands of Kincaid which, in 1238, were granted by charter from Maldwin, third Earl of Lennox, to Maurice Galbret, son of the Earl's steward, Giles pie Galbret.

The lands of Kincaid lie north-east of Glasgow between Kirkintilloch and Lennox town. While their extent waxed and waned over the centuries, the main part of the property always lay between what is now the B8023 Kirkintilloch to Kilsyth road at its southern border and the A391 Lennox town to Kilsyth road. The southern extent was bounded by the River Kelvin and the northern by the Glazert Water. Towards its centre sat Kincaid House, to the west was Kinkell and to the east, Auchinreoch.

To the north stand the Campsie Fells with their goblins and fairies, witches and warlocks, stretching from the Earl's Seat in the west to the Laird's Hill in the East.

“Each of the heights has its own charm ... From the summit of Tomtain, it is possible to see fourteen counties from Fife to Ayr.”<sup>24</sup> Between the Garrel Hill and the Laird's Hill is the Laird's Leap, where a Highland Laird fleeing from his enemies was hurled to his death. It is said that his horse carried him across the Carron and up the steep slope from the valley, but in attempting to leap this

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<sup>23</sup> *The Campsies and the Land of Lennox*, Lees, preface.

<sup>24</sup> Written before the extensive reorganisation of county boundaries in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.



crag the horse fell and both were killed. In the Garrel Glen is the place where a miller wrestled with the devil and the Witches' Linn at once suggests a spot where these unfortunate creatures were drowned for their allegiance to the evil one."<sup>25</sup>

From the summit of Meikle Bin, which lies some two miles to the north-west of the Laird's Hill and is 1870 feet above sea level, is one of the most extensive views in the country. Below it rises the River Carron which, rather than flowing south-west to the Clyde, runs east to empty itself at length into the Firth of Forth at Grangemouth. The source of this river is only a few hundred yards from another stream that runs in the opposite direction to enter Campsie Glen by Jamie Wright's Well where the lines of the Kirkintilloch poet, James Shimmon, have been cut in granite and placed over the well for all to read:

You jonkit frae the furious blast  
And seepin' doon the mountain past,  
Till here my craig you weet at last  
Sine ower the storm

### Campsie Church

Downstream from the Well is the Clachan of Campsie with its church.

"Alwyn, Earl of Lennox, in the reign of William the Lion [1165-1214], granted to Saint Kentigern and the Church of Glasgow the Church of Kamsi, with the land which he had given to it in its dedication, and with the adjacent chapels, and with the common pastorage of the whole parish . . . The Church of Camsy is enumerated amongst the prebendal churches of Glasgow in a bull of 1216, and it remained a prebend till the Reformation."<sup>26</sup>

It is in this churchyard that the Kincaids, who lived in these lands in the past, are buried, although now there is little obvious record of those who were buried before the 19<sup>th</sup> century as the family vault was sealed in 1884 by two large gravestones decorated with Kincaid arms. One is the gravestone of James Kincaid of that Ilk, who died in 1604 and the other commemorates his son whose arms are impaled with those of his wife Christian Leslie, together with his grandson, Sir James Kincaid of that Ilk, who died in 1615 and whose arms are impaled with those of his wife, Margaret Hamilton.

The church lay in the midst of Stirling territory, which stretched from Glorat in the east (and lying to the north of Kincaid), through Craigbarnet,

<sup>25</sup>*The Campsies and the Land of Lennox*, Lees, page 33.

<sup>26</sup>*Origines Parochiales Scotiae*, Bannantyne Club, Edinburgh, 1851, volume I, pages 44-45.



Campsie churchyard

which lies to the west of the Clachan of Campsie, to Ballagan in the west, although at one time (c. 1525) part of the Glorat land belonged to the Kincaids of Kincaid<sup>27</sup>. The contiguity of the lands of the Kincaids and Stirlings brought with it border disputes and issues of rights of way, leading inevitably to repeated armed clashes, grievous bodily harm and murder. It seems to have been the ancient equivalent of today's 'neighbours from hell'.

Both the Kincaids and the Stirlings held their lands by charter from the Earl of Lennox, whose vast spread of land stretched at one time from Dunbarton to Stirling. At its heart lay the Woodhead estate which was embellished in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the construction of Lennox Castle on the heights just across the valley from, and only a mile south of, the Clachan of Campsie.

### Kincaid House

In the middle of the Kincaid lands sits Kincaid House, now a hotel. Although some parts date back to about 1750, others to 1690, and an area by the kitchen possibly to about 1570, the main part of the building with its central staircase and four corner turrets was constructed in 1812 by David Hamilton of Glasgow. Some have claimed that an examination of the foundation walls of cellars under the south-west corner of the building show that they must have

<sup>27</sup>*The Stirlings of Craigharnet and Glorat*, Joseph Bain, Edinburgh, page 79.





Kincaid House Today



been part of the old tower of Kincaid, but others say that the site of the original building was 50 yards further west, which seems more likely. Wherever it was, the original house was apparently replaced by one on the present site in about 1690 and added to in about 1750. It was this house that:

“... seems to have been an oblong structure, of two stories and an attic, measuring about 33 feet by 19 feet 9 inches; its masonry has been cemented over, but its crow-stepped west gable still survives. The 18<sup>th</sup> century addition is of droved ashlar and had a moulded eaves course, a hipped roof and an outside stair on the west for access to the first floor ... a plan ... suggested that there had once been three stories in the eastern part of the building.”<sup>28</sup>

To the west of the mansion was a field that was called “Law Park” because, it is thought, the Barony Courts were held there in the distant past.

### Auchinreoch

To the east of Kincaid House lies Auchinreoch. The large house there was at one time known as ‘the Prince’s House’ because it was occupied by the eldest son of the Laird of Kincaid, until such time as his father died and he moved into Kincaid House as the new Laird. Auchinreoch was held by the Kincaids from about 1280 until early in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when it passed from them, by marriage, to the Buchanans of Carbeth, whose main estate lay some ten miles west of Kincaid.

“The old mansion house at Auchinreoch is beautifully situated but, in the early part of the [19<sup>th</sup>] century, it was allowed to fall into decay, and also got the character of being ‘haunted’. It is called yet the ‘haunted house’.”<sup>29</sup>

Early in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the House was abandoned as a residence and later pulled down.

“In 1959, Dr Hugh Gillies of Kirkintilloch, who knows much about local history, drove me over to see the lands of Auchinreoch, about a mile distant from Kincaid. The house is no longer standing but a few stones of the foundation show the outlines of this large house.”<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>28</sup>*Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland – Stirlingshire*, 1963, volume II, page 357.

<sup>29</sup>*The Parish of Campsie*, John Cameron, J.R. Publications, Kirkintilloch, 1892, page 65.

<sup>30</sup>Olivia Brisbin, letter to the author, 7 April 1967.

### The Pattern of Strife

During the major strife in the Lowlands of Scotland during the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, Kincaid was not situated well, lying as it does in the belt between Edinburgh and Ayrshire, and we cannot know what calamities were suffered by the Kincaids. But once there was strong government, it will be seen how well situated Kincaid is. The pattern of strife became Highland against Lowland, and later England against the Jacobite clans. The passes for an army either to or from the Highlands were either through Lennox country via Dunbarton and Glasgow or through Stirling and Edinburgh. Kincaid is situated half way between these two Highland gates and backed to the North by the foothills of the Highlands. Kincaid does not seem to have suffered from the marauding McGregors and McDonalds to the north and west, although this may have been only because of payment of 'Black Mail':

"So late as the year 1744, the payment of Black Mail was here [Campsie] made to Macgregor of Glengyle, for protection against the depredations of the Highland freebooters."<sup>31</sup>

Payment of such Black Mail would have ceased from 1745 when 'Butcher' Cumberland extracted ruthless revenge on the Highlanders for their part in the '45' rebellion, and thereby tamed the Highlands.

So Kincaid lay on the border between Highland and Lowland but tucked out of the way, inviting attention from neither Jacobite nor Edinburgh. There was, of course, trouble in the area caused by local feuds. The records are full of family battles, mainly with the Stirlings. But these feuds caused relatively little bloodshed or loss of property. Kincaids remained at Kincaid until the 20<sup>th</sup> century when hereditary property throughout the United Kingdom was fast disappearing.

Auchinreoch may be no more, but Kincaid House still stands more or less where it has always stood, foursquare to the world. A hotel now rather than the headquarters of a land-owning family, it marks the place and conjures up bygone ages when the Kincaids clashed with the Stirlings in the Campsie churchyard. Living history.

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<sup>31</sup> *Imperial Gazetteer of Scotland*, edited Rev John Wilson, A. Fullarton & Co, London, Edinburgh and Dublin, volume I.







# CHAPTER THREE

## KINCAIDS OF KINCAID

### 1447 - 1615

*Associated Genealogical Table Number 2 is at page 264.*

Although 1430 is given as a date for a William of Craiglockhart and his brother John,<sup>32</sup> the first dependable record comes in 1447 when William of Kincaid of Craiglockhart was confirmed by James II of a tack [tenancy] from Patrick Lyon, lord of Glamis, of the lands of Inchbrek and the mill of Antermomy, near Kincaid.<sup>33</sup> So ends the silence of nearly 170 years, and from 1447 a fairly full picture of the Kincaids can be built up from the records. Not only can relationships be defined, but in some cases certain descriptions of events bring the family to life.

#### Lairds of Kincaid and Craiglockhart

The 1447 charter identifies William's son and heir as Robert Kyncade de eodem (of that place, or of that ilk) who witnessed a charter granted by Jonet de Fentown to William Haket of various lands at Calendar. Robert Kyncade of that ilk is also mentioned in a charter in 1448.<sup>34</sup>

“I believe he is the same as Robert de Kincade of Craiglockhart 1464 whose sons, Patrick, David and Robert are mentioned as witnessing the sasine of James Stewards of Albany.<sup>35</sup> I also think that Robert de Kincaid who witnessed a charter,<sup>36</sup> dated 23 March 1452, by Alexander de Broyse of

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<sup>32</sup> A chart in a notebook in the *Peareth Ledgers*.

<sup>33</sup> *Lennox of Woodhead Papers*, Glasgow City Archives, T-LX 1/12/1.

<sup>34</sup> *Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, 1424-1513*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1882, number 618, 29<sup>th</sup> June 1448, but recorded on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1458.

<sup>35</sup> *The Stirlings of Keir*, William Fraser, Edinburgh, 1858, page 233.

<sup>36</sup> *Liber Cartarum Sancte Crusis*, The Bannatyne Club, Edinburgh, 1840, page 146.



Stanehouse, granting to the Abbey (Holyrood) his lands of Erth in feu ferm, is identical with the other Roberts.”<sup>37</sup>

Robert is also mentioned in charters in 1450<sup>38</sup> and 1451.<sup>39</sup>

From the records, Robert Kincaid de eodem may have had two younger brothers: Donald (described as de Kyncade) who had a son Robert; and David, a magistrate in Edinburgh, who acquired or inherited the lands of Coates in that city and who may have been Constable of Edinburgh Castle.<sup>40</sup> However, there is no clear evidence that they were Robert's brothers and, in David's case, would have led to a problem of consanguinity (close relationship by blood) between two of their grandchildren who married each other, as we shall see. We have no evidence for any dispensation for such a marriage, although this may have happened, the paperwork having vanished or lying as yet unearthed.

Robert is also recorded as having four sons: William, Patrick, Robert and David. On Robert's death, which occurred between 1464 and 1480, his eldest son William inherited Kincaid and, probably, Craiglockhart. William seems not to have married or, at least, not to have had any legitimate children; his two 'natural' sons, John and Peter, were legitimised but not until 30<sup>th</sup> January 1516.<sup>41</sup> In any case, whether illegitimate or legitimised, they were barred from inheriting so William was succeeded by Patrick, his brother, sometime between 16<sup>th</sup> May 1497,<sup>42</sup> when William was still flourishing, and 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1505<sup>43</sup> when Patrick Kincaid of that Ilk resigned the lands at Craiglockhart.

### **Elizabeth and Thomas Kincaid of Kincaid**

Sometime between 1475 and 1480, Patrick Kincaid of that Ilk married Egidia Houston, by whom he had one child, a daughter named Elizabeth. She married her cousin Thomas, who was the son of Thomas Kincaid, burgess of Edinburgh,<sup>44</sup> before 25 June 1500, at which time she:

<sup>37</sup> Letter from Olivia Brisbin to the author, 7 September 1967.

<sup>38</sup> *The Surnames of Scotland*, George Black, Tilden Foundation, Edinburgh, 1946.

<sup>39</sup> *The Stirlings of Craigharnet and Glorat*, Joseph Bain, Edinburgh, Appendix, page 68, Charter 8.

<sup>40</sup> See Chapter Four.

<sup>41</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, volume I, number 2693.

<sup>42</sup> *Register of the Great Seal of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, volume II, number 2355.

<sup>43</sup> *Register of the Great Seal of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, volume II, number 2861.

<sup>44</sup> See Chapter Four.

“Resyned the lands of Kincaid in the hands of John Hamilton of Bandorrie for a new infestment to Thomas and herself.”<sup>45</sup>

Neither Patrick nor Elizabeth lived long after inheriting and by 1515 we find that Elizabeth’s widower, Thomas, had apparently annexed the title ‘of that Ilk’. He married again, a girl called Margaret Seton, on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1525<sup>46</sup> and lived to a ripe old age of over 80.

His daughter, Marion, is cited in a court case in 1548 when it was ruled that if John Halden of that Ilk married any other than Helen Fleming, daughter of William Fleming of Boghall, or Marion Kincaid, daughter of Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk, or Margaret Browne, daughter of Richard Browne of Estir Harttre, without the consent of ‘his superior’, he would have to pay a financial penalty.<sup>47</sup> Although it is not certain, Marion may have been called Mause and, if so, would not have been the chosen bride of John Halden as Mause is recorded as marrying John Stirling<sup>48</sup> and then John Binning.<sup>49</sup> As there are also references to Mause as the widow of both John Goldsmith<sup>50</sup> and of John Lawson,<sup>51</sup> she must have been a man-eater of huge appetite although it is possible that there were two women of that name at that time.

Marion’s father, Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk, died in February or March 1561<sup>52</sup> and was quickly followed to the grave by his second wife who died the following year.<sup>53</sup> Despite the fact that Thomas had children by both of his wives, there appears to have been no trouble over the inheritance. Elizabeth’s son, James, is named as heir to his father Thomas in 1541<sup>54</sup> and again in 1562,<sup>55</sup> shortly after Thomas’s death.

### Successive James Kincaids of Kincaid

James was the first of six (or possibly seven or even eight) successive James Kincaid of Kincaids, who proved most difficult to disentangle, only being distinguishable by their wives, and by the fact that the third James was knighted for reasons unknown. The first three James Kincaids of that Ilk

<sup>45</sup> *Protocol Book of John Fowler*, Peareth Ledgers, volume I, page 150-151.

<sup>46</sup> *Calendar of Deeds*, volume VIII, page 374.

<sup>47</sup> *Protocol Book of Thomas Johnsoun*, 1528-1578, page 70, folio 180-181, number 354.

<sup>48</sup> *Ledgers of John Peareth of Lennox Castle*, volume I, page 143.

<sup>49</sup> *Protocols of the Town Clerks of Glasgow*, volume III, 22 March 1563.

<sup>50</sup> *Protocol Book of John Fowler*, volume I, page 90.

<sup>51</sup> *Edinburgh Testaments*, 19 June 1607.

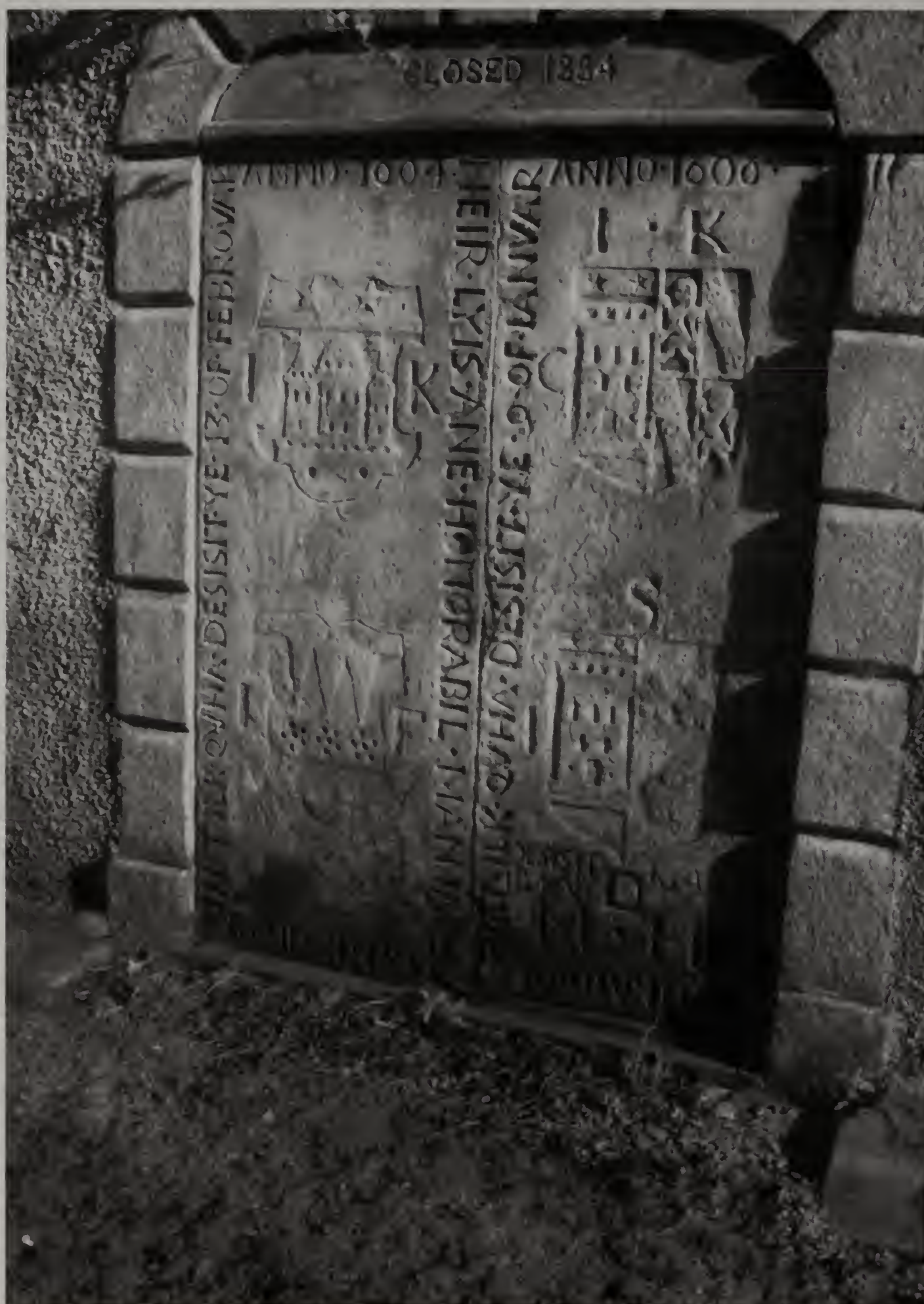
<sup>52</sup> *Ledgers of John Peareth of Lennox Castle*, volume I, page 87.

<sup>53</sup> *Ledgers of John Peareth of Lennox Castle*, volume I, page 87.

<sup>54</sup> *Register of the Great Seal of Scotland 1513-1546*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, volume II, Folio 2502.

<sup>55</sup> Letter to the author from Olivia Brisbin, 12<sup>th</sup> November 1969.





### Tombstones of successive James Kincaids of Kincaid

*The left half commemorates James Kincaid of Kincaid who died in 1604 together with what are presumed to be the arms of his wife with the initials IF.*

*The right hand half commemorates (above) James Kincaid of Kincaid who died in 1606 and whose arms are impaled with those of his wife Christian Leslie; and (below) Sir James Kincaid of Kincaid whose arms are impaled with those of his wife Dame Margaret Hamilton - the SD at top and bottom of the shield and the date 1645 below it are the subject of debate.*



have a splendid monument: Campsie graveyard is dominated by their great gravestones, which seal the entrance to the family tomb.

The first of these James Kincaids of Kincaid appears to have married Janet Afleck.<sup>56</sup> The evidence is sketchy, but the gravestone recording his death has a coat of arms beneath his with the initials 'I F'. The 'I' could well be 'J', and the 'F' could be a mistake by the mason who may have heard her name as Janeta Fleck. Alternatively the record in the Glasgow protocols could be in error. The shield depicted shows a fesse ermine between, in chief, three rosettes between three piles and, in base, an annulet. However, Lyon Clerk has said that it is not the shield of an Afleck, or an Auchinleck – neither is it of a Fleming<sup>57</sup> as asserted by Eugene Davis Kincaid III in his history of the Kincaids<sup>58</sup>, nor of a Falcon, nor of a Forsyth.<sup>59</sup> The identity of the wife whose arms appear on the gravestone remains a riddle.

There is another problem. If the James Kincaid of Kincaid, whose death is recorded as 1604 in Campsie churchyard, was the son of Thomas Kincaid and Elizabeth Kincaid of that Ilk, he would have been over a hundred when he died because Thomas and Elizabeth married in or shortly before 1500. Such an age, although possible, is unlikely. It seems as if there may be another James. He would have been the son of Thomas and Elizabeth and husband of Jonet Afleck, and it would have been his son James who died in 1604 and had the wife with the initials I F. This seems a little more likely, but either may be correct.

The James Kincaid of Kincaid, who died on 1604, fathered, in addition to his eldest son James, at least four other legitimate sons, Thomas, Captain George, Robert and Malcolm of Kinkell who was killed in the feud between the Stirlings and Kincaids; he also had at least one natural or illegitimate son, another James. He was succeeded by his eldest son James who was married to Christian Leslie, but who followed his father to the family grave only two years later, as is recorded on the gravestone.

### **Sir James and Dame Margaret**

His eldest son, Sir James Kincaid of that Ilk, was knighted later for services unknown. He married Margaret Hamilton, who seems to have had difficulties with her Kincaid relatives for, after Sir James's death in 1615,<sup>60</sup> there

<sup>56</sup> *Protocols of the Town Clerks of Glasgow*, volume III, 22 March 1563.

<sup>57</sup> Letter to the author from Mrs C.G.W Roads, Lyon Clerk, 6 February 2003.

<sup>58</sup> *Origin and Lineage of the Ancient Family of Kincaid of That Ilk*, Eugene Davis Kincaid III, Professional Press, Chapel Hill, NC, USA 1995, page 12.

<sup>59</sup> Letter to the author from Mrs C.G.W Roads, Lyon Clerk, 25 March 2003.

<sup>60</sup> Tombstone in Campsie churchyard.



are several instances of her legal complaints against her mother-in-law and her brothers-in-law. On 6<sup>th</sup> June 1622, a complaint was made in Edinburgh:

“By Dame Margaret Hamilton, Lady Kincaid, as follows – The five pound land of Meikle and Little Kincaid with the tower etc., belongs to her in liferent, but she is troubled in her possession thereof by Andrew and John Kincaid, sons of the late Christian Leslie, her mother-in-law, James Kincaid their uncle natural and William Scott in Burnestoun, who intend by oppression and bangistrie to debar her from the liferent lands and appropriate these to their own use. Thus in 1621, immediately after the death of Christian Leslie, Andrew and John Kincaid intruded themselves in the tower of Kincaid, which they still retain, forcing the complainer to proceed against them before the Lords of Council and Session; and when after a long and fashious pley, she obtained on 2<sup>nd</sup> February last a decree requiring them to remove from the Mains of Kincaid, they disobeyed and were renounced rebels, in which condition they remain unrelaxed. Since then they have with the aid of their uncle James Kincaid, and William Scott Burnstoun, fortified the said place with men, victual and armour, and keep and detain the same as a house of war, granting rest and protection therein to all such rebels as please report to them. Further, the complainer having recovered possession of the Mains of Kincaid and some low houses about the place, the said persons on April last, came out of the place and violently ejected the complainer’s tenants and servants, from the said houses and placed some of their own servants therein, and they demolished and breakit down such as the said laich houses as they are unhable for dwelling or any uther use...and has maid the said complainer unable to get her lands labored intending so to dwang [harass] and overthrow the complainer that she may give up her right to the lands ere they may be laid waste.”<sup>61</sup>

The Lords ordered Andrew and John Kincaid to find surety for the complainer’s indemnity each in 1000 merks. The mother-in-law problem is clearly not a modern comic’s invention.

### Family Feuds

During the 160 years from Robert Kincaid de eodem to Sir James Kincaid of Kincaid, Scotland was relatively peaceful. England was going through a period of isolationism, and had no time for a quarrel with Scotland. After the disastrous Wars of the Roses, England needed a quarter of a century to recuperate and rebuild her foundations. Even the wars with France and Spain in the second half of this period were rather half-hearted: the English monarchs, Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, were well aware that a second front in

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<sup>61</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, volume XII, number 731.

the north would be too much for a country faced with the imperialism of mighty Spain and still weak from the struggle between the houses of York and Lancaster. In addition the Reformation and the Counter Reformation demanded far more attention than border disputes or questions of suzerainty.

Scotland, too, was weak. Repeated struggles over the royal succession and a deep rift between Catholicism and Calvinism had made strong government impossible. Governed by Protestants, but led by a Catholic monarch, Scotland was pushed into wars with Protestant England and civil wars with her own Catholics. The melancholy experience of Flodden Field and the revolution of 1559-60 were the outward signs of the internal chaos of the Scottish kingdom.

This turmoil, however, did not trouble the lives of ordinary people to a great extent. The revolution was religious and the external wars were only fought because of intense pressure from outside. The inhabitants of Stirlingshire and Dunbarton seemed little troubled by the fighting between armies and were more concerned with pursuing their own feuds. The religious question naturally exacerbated these feuds and Kincaids, Stirlings and Lennoxes were no exceptions. On 16<sup>th</sup> August 1526, there was a rebuke for:

“Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk, James Kincaid, the laird of Crymcramp, Robert Kincaid and others for their treasonable intercommoning with ... Englishmen and traitors dwelling upon Levin.”<sup>62</sup>

But the main causes of trouble were disputes between neighbours. In 1571 James Kincaid of Kincaid, together with his sons James and Malcolm made an attack on the Lennoxes of Woodhead:

“On the seventeenth day of September instant, he [John Lennox] being solitary at his prayer beside his dwelling place of Woodhead, believing no evil of any person, but to have lived under God’s peace and the King’s, nevertheless the sons and brother of James Kincaid of that Ilk, upon set purpose, cruelly invaded the said John and wounded and hurt him in diverse parts of his body to the effusion of his blood in great quantity and masterfully and per force took him with them to the place of Kincaid, where they detain him captive yet in his contempt of our Sovereign Lord and his authority.”<sup>63</sup>

John Lennox was eventually released after several months in September 1571. However, the feud continued and in 1614:

<sup>62</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, volume I, No 3474.

<sup>63</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, volume II, page 82.



“Sir James Kincaid of Kincaid, for prophaning of the Sabbath day in drawing his weapons and fighting thairwith, within the kirkyard of Campsie immediatlie after the sermon etc at the quhilk tyme umquhile [deceased] John Lennox was slain, to make his publique repentence in all humble manner in linen cloths within the kirk of Campsie in the public place thair of public repentence on Sunday come eight days.”<sup>64</sup>

The feud between the Kincaids and Stirlings was even more bitter. In 1563:

“... again the Stirlings had a violent dispute with the Kincaids of Kincaid. During the course of it, the laird of Craigbarnet [a Stirling], accompanied by [several followers] attacked in Glasgow, James, son and heir of James Kincaid of that Ilk and Malcolm, his brother. They wounded James in the head and also wounded Malcolm.”<sup>65</sup>

In the same year, in a fight in Glasgow with the Stirlings, Malcolm had his left arm cut off.<sup>66</sup> We can assume that several more incidents followed in the next few years, but the next recorded incident took place in 1581 when the Stirlings attacked the Kincaids and killed Malcolm, son of the laird of Kincaid.<sup>67</sup> This murder drew the attention of Edinburgh and on 29<sup>th</sup> August:

“A caution for 5000 merks by John Earl of Montrose, John Stirling younger of Glorat and Lucas Stirling of Baldorane, in ward within the Castle of Blacknes, that they shall, if set at liberty, either enter and present William Striveling [Stirling], committer of the slauchter of umquhile Malcolm Kincaid, before the King and Council by 1<sup>st</sup> October next, or else commit themselves in custody in Blacknes on the said day.”<sup>68</sup>

What happened to William Stirling is not recorded but no doubt he was incarcerated in either Blackness or Edinburgh Castle. But the matter did not end there for, on 9<sup>th</sup> September, several Stirlings were arraigned in court for the slaughter of Malcolm Kincaid, the pursuers being listed as: Charles Kincaid, eldest son of the deceased; James Kincaid elder, of that Ilk, father; James Kincaid younger, of that Ilk, brother; George Kincaid, brother.<sup>69</sup> The Kincaids gained revenge in 1586 when, on 16<sup>th</sup> July, Luke Stirling was slain by Thomas Kincaid, brother of the murdered Malcolm.<sup>70</sup>

<sup>64</sup> John Cameron quoting Diocesan Records in a letter to the Hon. C.S.B. Hanbury-Lennox 17<sup>th</sup> December 1887.

<sup>65</sup> *Parish of Strathblane*, page 133.

<sup>66</sup> *Scottish Arms*, R.R.Stoddart, William Patterson, Edinburgh, 1881, volume II.

<sup>67</sup> *The Parish of Campsie*, Cameron, J.R. Publications, Kirkintilloch, 1892, page 183.

<sup>68</sup> *Register of the Privy Council Of Scotland*, volume III, page 419.

<sup>69</sup> *Criminal Trials in Scotland*, Robert Pitcairn, William Tait, Edinburgh, volume I, part II, page 97.

<sup>70</sup> *Parish of Strathblane*, page 114.

### Trouble and Strife

Terrible as these incidents seem to us, it must be remembered that feuds between neighbouring families were common in the Scotland of those days. Wherever the Kincaids went, it seems, there followed strife. In 1517 Uthred Kincaid was killed by William Borthuik of Crukstoun,<sup>71</sup> while in 1523 Alexander Kincaid was killed by James Kyninmonth.<sup>72</sup> In 1532 David Kincaid of Coates was, together with his illegitimate sons Patrick and David, charged with assaulting John Pitcairn in an Edinburgh street. For this they were thrown into Edinburgh Castle.<sup>73</sup> This punishment probably had no more effect than it had generations later on the Kincaids of Hillhousefield who clashed repeatedly with the Logans.<sup>74</sup> At Warriston, Jean Ramsey, wife of John Kincaid of Warriston, was forcibly abducted by Robert Cawncross and three others.<sup>75</sup> Whether this was the result of a long-standing feud is hard to say, but there is no doubt that this period of Kincaid history is full of bloody incident.

In addition to these feuds are countless references to the general law-breaking habits of the Kincaids. In 1550 John Kincaid of Warriston killed a French sailor at Newhaven, Leith,<sup>76</sup> and in 1579 there was a caution for James Kincaid of Carlowrie to give himself into ward in Dunbarton Castle within four days, under pain of 1000 merks.<sup>77</sup> In 1582 there was a caution for 1000 merks that Helen Kincaid shall be harmless of her husband Gavin Hamilton of the Hill.<sup>78</sup> In 1600, Jean Livingstone murdered her husband, John Kincaid of Warriston,<sup>79</sup> and in 1604, James Kincaid of that Ilk and his son and heir had to give assurances that they would not slay salmon in the Clyde, Leven, Blane, Kelvin or branches thereof.<sup>80</sup> In 1606 Thomas Kincaid, maltman, was wounded in a fight in Glasgow.<sup>81</sup> In 1607 there were whispers that James Flemyng of Oxfang had committed incest with Jonet Kincaid, his wife's sister.<sup>82</sup> In 1629 Thomas Kincaid of Warriston was tried for manslaughter, but he retaliated by objecting successfully to the judges and

<sup>71</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1908, volume I, number 2941.

<sup>72</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh 1908, volume I, number 3257.

<sup>73</sup> *A Short History of Edinburgh Castle*, Gray.

<sup>74</sup> See Chapter Four.

<sup>75</sup> *Cassell's Old and New Edinburgh*, James Grant, Cassell & Co, London, 1883, volume III, page 98.

<sup>76</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, volume IV, number 902.

<sup>77</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, volume III, page 132.

<sup>78</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, volume III, page 539.

<sup>79</sup> See Chapter Four.

<sup>80</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, volume VII, page 578.

<sup>81</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, volume VII, pages 234, 648.

<sup>82</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, volume VII, page 379.



the case was remitted to the Council.<sup>83</sup> The Hillhousefield Kincaids were running seriously into debt. In 1637 another Malcolm Kincaid was convicted of theft,<sup>84</sup> and in 1641 was charged with “riot and oppression”.<sup>85</sup> In 1635 Ninian Kincaid was charged with contravening the tobacco act,<sup>86</sup> although the details are obscure. Later still, a John Kincaid is “transported for refusing the oath” and another John Kincaid, a witch pricker, was convicted of seizing unaccused people and pricking them.<sup>87</sup> We will meet many of these Kincaids again in later chapters.

The Kincaids were not, of course, an exception, for Scotland was still an unruly country. Making laws was one thing, but enforcing them was quite another. In the Highlands murder, cattle rustling and looting were considered affairs of honour and Edinburgh was ignored. The Highland clan system made it difficult to pursue individuals and often Edinburgh had to take on a whole clan. This was only done in extreme cases. But the clan system had weaknesses as well: its inter-clan feuds. It was easy for Edinburgh to get one clan, with a bitter feud against another, to do their dirty work, as happened at Glencoe. Even more extreme measures could be taken by outlawing a clan, as happened to the MacGregors whose general murderous lawlessness had to be curbed. That clan had carried mayhem a step too far when they slipped down the western side of Loch Lomond and carried out a bloody and lucrative raid on Glen Fruin – the ‘slaughter of the Lennox’:

“They [the MacGregors, accompanied by detachments of Campbells, Camerons and MacDonalds] left the braes of Balquidder in the bitter February weather of 1603, crossed Loch Lomond from Glen Arklet to the Pass of Arrochar, and swung down the eastern shore of Loch Long to come up on the rear of the Colquhouns . . . The Laird of Luss had an army of 500 foot and 300 horse, formed from his own people, from Buchanan levies, and from the alarmed townsmen of Dumbarton. In open country his cavalry could have ridden down the Highlanders with ease, but he placed them and his foot across the marshy floor of Glen Fruin. His lowland infantry broke at once before the charge of the clans, his horses were hamstrung and slaughtered in the bogs. [The Highlanders] ran over the dead to fire every house and stack in the lands of Luss, and to take their share of two thousand head of cattle, sheep, goats and horses.”<sup>88</sup>

Later that year, Parliament proscribed the very name of MacGregor:

<sup>83</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, volume VII, page 379.

<sup>84</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, volume VI, page 428.

<sup>85</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, volume VII, page 504.

<sup>86</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, volume V, page 504.

<sup>87</sup> See Chapter Ten.

<sup>88</sup> *Glencoe*, John Prebble, Secker & Warburg, 1966, page 54.

“No man, under pain of death, might call himself MacGregor, nor his children and his children’s children unborn. If he did so use that name he could be killed like a beast of the wayside, with all his lands and possessions forfeit to his killer. An outlaw could earn a pardon by coming before the justices with the severed head of an obstinate MacGregor, and MacGregors already under proscription were invited to atone for their past offences by murdering each other. Death was the sentence if more than four of Clan Gregor met together, or if they possessed any other weapon than a blunt knife to cut their meat.”<sup>89</sup>

Later Acts dealt with the branding and transportation of MacGregor women.

And it was not only in the Highlands where the law was openly flouted. In the late 16<sup>th</sup> century, much of the Border country was ungovernable, and even in Ayrshire the round of killings between the Cunninghams and Montgomerys in 1585 could not be quelled. Nearly a century later, the government used Highlanders to discipline recalcitrant Lowlanders. In 1678:

“The government loosed on the south-west, particularly upon Ayrshire, the Highland Host, a body of 6000 Highlanders and 3000 Lowland militia to live in free quarters whilst they exacted the bonds [of money owed] and disarmed the country. Not only was the land looted but, as a result of fines and forfeitures, estates changed hands.”<sup>90</sup>

Times were violent and superior force was the de facto law of the land. The strife that involved Kincaids was nothing but a sign of the age.

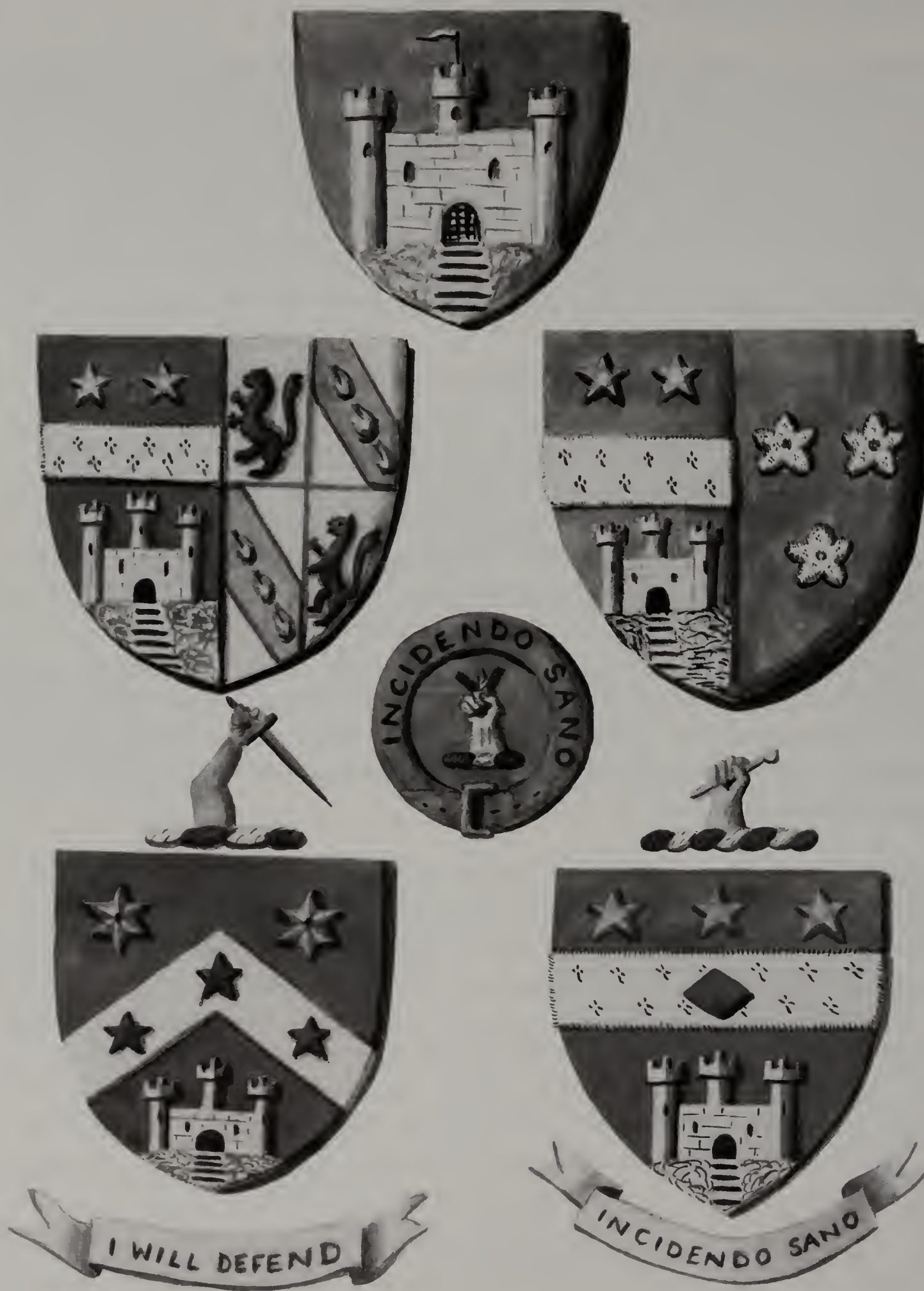
As the 17<sup>th</sup> century rolls by, the complaints, cautions and convictions against the Kincaids slowly disappear. Along with the rest of the Lowlands, the Kincaids were becoming civilised and united. After the Act of Union, the thoughts of Scottish people, at least in the Lowlands, began to turn away from their provincial feuds. Government was improving and the power of Edinburgh, and later London, increasing. The Lairds of Warriston were becoming cultured and the Lairds of Kincaid were growing into recognisable landed gentry as we know the term today. Farming and welfare were beginning to dominate their interests and the colour slowly disappears. The Kincaids of the 16<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, in contrast, remain magnificently alive.

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<sup>89</sup> *Glencoe*, John Prebble, Secker & Warburg, 1966, page 43.

<sup>90</sup> *A History of Scotland*, J.D.Mackie, Penguin Books Ltd, 1964, page 238.





# Kincaid arms – I

*(Top) Shield of Stephen Kincaid 1582*

*(Centre left) Shield of James Kincaid of Kincaid impaled with those of his wife Christian Leslie, c.1600*

*(Centre right) Shield of Sir James Kincaid of Kincaid impaled with those of his wife Dame Margaret Hamilton, c.1600*

*(Centre) Unidentified Kincaid crest, pictured in Fairbairn's Book of Crests*

*(Bottom left) Shield, crest and motto of Alexander Kincaid, Provost of Edinburgh, 1776*

*(Bottom right) Shield, crest and motto of Thomas Kincaid, surgeon of Edinburgh, 1690*

## **Spotlight II**

# **Arms and Tartan**

No one knows exactly when heraldry first assumed laws, but by 1050 it was a flourishing, widely used science. However, it only became hereditary as we know it today during the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Protected by law and administered directly by one of the great ministers of the Crown, the Lord Lyon, heraldry in Scotland has been more exact than in most other countries. Because of this protection by law, Scottish heraldry has survived in a much healthier state than in any other country.

Several authorities mention that the Chief of the Kincaid family:

“... delivered his country out of the hands of the English under the armies of Edward I,<sup>91</sup> by courageous work in the Castle of Edinburgh, whereby he was deservedly made constable thereof. The dignity of that office remained in memory in that family for long years and, by a no means dishonourable record from the past, has to this date been preserved by the public granting of a ‘heraldic castle’ as an addition to their family coat of arms ...”<sup>92</sup>

### **Early Armonial Descriptions**

Despite the references to the addition of a castle to the Kincaid arms as a reward for “the courageous work in the Castle of Edinburgh”, no description or illustration of the augmented arms are given. There is a reference to the arms on a seal of 1382 bearing only a castle on the shield<sup>93</sup>; however, as this refers to Stephen Kincaid, portioner of Broughton, this seems to be an error as there is no known evidence for a Kincaid in Broughton (Edinburgh) until the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. This reference appears to refer to the seal on a charter dated 1582:

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<sup>91</sup> Although a common assertion, this is incorrect; the attack on Edinburgh Castle occurred in 1313 during the reign of Edward II, no such attack being recorded in the reign of Edward I.

<sup>92</sup> From a birthbrief in the *Register of the Great Seal of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1897, volume IX, number 1713, 9 September 1646.

<sup>93</sup> *Scottish Arms*, R.R. Stodart, William Patterson, Edinburgh 1881, volume II.



“9 Sep 1582. Letter of reversion by said Stephen Kincaid, portioner of Broughton for himself and as administrator to Robert Kincaid, his second son, in favour of James Kincaid, younger, of that Ilk, and Christine Leslie his spouse. Witnesses, Robert and Edward Kincaid, not designated and William Laing, writer. Signed by granter. Seal attached, bearing a tower only. Legend, Robertus Kincaid.”<sup>94</sup>

This is interesting as this seal is the only known Kincaid example of a design of shield bearing only a castle. Assuming that the 1382 record is in error, the earliest recorded Kincaid arms date from 1506:

“Kincaid, George, senior, acting for the Abbot of Holyrood as bailie for the barony of Broughton. A shield of arms: A fess ermine between two stars in chief and a castle triple towered in base.”<sup>95</sup>

The same arms appear on a seal in 1521:

“Arms on the seal of Edward Kincaid Sheriff-Depute of Edinburgh 1521 – a fesse ermine between two mullets in chief and a castle triple towered in base.”<sup>96</sup>

In 1581<sup>97</sup> and 1582,<sup>98</sup> James Kincaid, younger, of Kincaid attached his seal to a charter showing the same arms, and these appear again three times on the gravestones that seal the Kincaid tomb in the Campsie churchyard and record the deaths of three James Kincaids in 1604, 1606 and 1615, as well as their wives. No crests, supporters or mottos are shown on any of these seals or gravestones, and of course there is no indication of the colours.

There was at one time an old broadsword in the possession of the Kincaids upon which was depicted the same arms and the words:

“Wha will persew, I will defend  
My life and honour to the end. 1552”.<sup>99</sup>

From later matriculation of arms, it seems that these same lines may, centuries before, have given rise to the motto “I Will Defend” or “This I’ll Defend”, which Kincaids of Kincaid and many other Kincaid branches used and still use. The crest seems to have been an arm holding a broadsword.

<sup>94</sup> *Calendar of Laing Charters AD 854-1837*, edited Rev John Anderson, Edinburgh 1899, number 1047, page 260.

<sup>95</sup> *Heraldic Seals*, Stevenson, John Horne and Marguerite Wood, Glasgow, 1940, volume II, page 441.

<sup>96</sup> *Scottish Arms*, R.R. Stodart, William Patterson, Edinburgh, 1881, volume II.

<sup>97</sup> *Scottish Arms*, R.R. Stodart, William Patterson, Edinburgh, 1881, volume II.

<sup>98</sup> *Calendar of Laing Charters AD 854-1837*, edited Rev John Anderson, Edinburgh, 1899, number 1047, page 260.

<sup>99</sup> *A System of Heraldry*, Alexander Nisbet, Edinburgh, 1816, Part II, Chapter VIII, page 420.

### Lord Lyon and a Register of Arms

Before 1672, Acts of the Scottish Parliament had been unsuccessful in achieving a register of arms, but in that year a law was passed in the Scottish Parliament which made it necessary for all those who wished to bear arms to register these arms with Lord Lyon, and that:

“Whosoever shall use any other arms [than those registered with Lord Lyon] any manner of way, after expiry of the year and the day, was rendered liable to fine and imprisonment, and confiscation of movables whereon the arms were represented.”<sup>100</sup>

Thomas Kincaid, the great surgeon of Edinburgh, was quick to obey; he registered his arms, suitably differenced, for every shield is unique to the holder and his heir. While this requirement had not been obeyed in the past, it was now enforced through the office of the Lord Lyon. Thomas's shield was basically the same as those of other Kincaids, but with three mullets, rather than two, and a red lozenge on the fess. A more significant change lay in his crest and motto: the original crest of a drawn broadsword and the motto “I Will Defend” being obviously out of sympathy with surgery. Thomas changed the crest to a hand holding a surgeon's knife, called a bistoury, and the motto to “Incidendo Sano” which means “Through cutting, I heal”.<sup>101</sup>

It is here that we get the first indication of the colours on the shield. The background colour is red (Gules), the bar or fess is white with black dots (Ermine), the lozenge is red (Gules), the mullets gold (Or) and the castle silver (Argent) with black (Sable) markings.

Another major Edinburgh figure was the next Kincaid to matriculate his arms:

“Alexander Kincaid, Provost of the City of Edinburgh, His Majesty's Printer and Stationer for Scotland, Representative of the family of Bantaskine, descended from the ancient and honourable family of Kincaid of Kincaid in the County of Stirling bears gules on a chevron argent three stars of the field, the paternal figures of the surname of Ker on account of his marriage with the Hon. Caroline Ker, daughter of Lord Charles Ker of Gamond, Director of the Chancery, second son of Robert first Marquess of Lothian, in chief two spur rowels or and in base a castle of the second masoned sable, the paternal figures of the name of Kincaid. Crest, a dexter arm from the elbow issuing out of the wreath holding a drawn broadsword both proper. Motto I will defend. Matriculated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1776.”<sup>102</sup>

<sup>100</sup> *Scots Heraldry*, Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh, 1956, pages 78-79.

<sup>101</sup> *The Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland*, volume 1, folio 344.

<sup>102</sup> *The Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland*, volume 1, folio 345.



This somewhat difficult heraldic language details the old and the new features of Alexander's arms. The colour of the shield remains Gules (red), but instead of the fess ermine across the middle of the shield is a chevron (an inverted – or US – corporal's stripe) Argent (silver) with three stars of the field Gules (red) to show his link with the Ker family. In chief (at the top of the shield) are two spur rowels Or (gold) while in base (at the bottom of the shield) is the traditional Kincaid feature of a castle of the second (the same colour as the second feature mentioned, that is silver), masoned Sable (black). The crest has been refined, being proper (that is, in normal rather than heraldic colouring), but remains the Kincaid crest, as does the motto.

It was not until 1808 that a Kincaid of Kincaid matriculated his arms and we get a full description in heraldic language and an illustration in Lyon Register in vivid colour. They are recorded thus:

“Kincaid, John of Kincaid, in the county of Stirlingshire, esquire, bears gules on a fesse ermine between two mullets in chief or and a triple towered castle in base argent masoned sable which last the family have used to carry in their shield from an honourable exploit of one of their ancestors in recovering the Castle of Edinburgh from the English in the time of Edward the first in consequence of which he was made Constable of the Castle and his posterity enjoyed that office for many years. Crest, a triple towered castle argent masoned sable and issuing therefrom a dexter arm from the shoulder embowed, vested in tartan and grasping a drawn broadsword all proper. Motto ‘This I’ll defend’. Supporters, two Highlanders dressed in the highland garb and armed with steel cuirasses each holding a Lochaber Axe all proper. 29 July 1808.”<sup>103</sup>

The supporters (those figures which hold the shield, for example the lion and unicorn in the Royal Arms) are the property of the Chief. No one but the Chief and his heir may matriculate supporters. In English heraldry, supporters are normally confined to peers and knights of the realm, although some families of a very ancient pedigree are allowed them. In Scotland, however, the use of supporters is not quite so confined. Most Chiefs of untitled families have supporters in their arms.

The arms of John Kincaid of Kincaid, described above, show that the crest has grown since mediaeval times. Then the crest was a broadsword, simple and effective, as a crest had to be, if it was to be recognised by followers in battle. But by 1808 when these arms were matriculated, recognition on the battlefield was no longer a necessity and the crest could become more complex; heraldry had cast off the constraints of its practical origins. Consequently the 1808 Kincaid of Kincaid crest shows the sword, but this is

<sup>103</sup> *The Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland*, volume 2, folio 23.

now held by an embowed arm, which is “vested in tartan” and issues from a castle.

Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, heraldry in Scotland became more detailed and more exact. A century and a half after John Kincaid of Kincaid had matriculated his arms, the Chief of the name matriculated his arms in the following language:

“Gules on a fesse ermine between two mullets in chief Or and a triple towered castle in base Argent, masoned Sable. Above the shield is placed an helm befitting his degree, with a mantling Gules doubled Argent, and on a wreath of the liveries is set for a crest a triple towered castle Argent masoned Sable and issuant from the centre tower a dexter arm from the shoulder, embowed, vested in the proper tartan of the Name of Kincaid, and grasping a drawn broadsword all proper and in an escrol over the same this motto THIS I’LL DEFEND and on a compartment below the shield are set for Supporters two highlanders dressed in Highland garb and having kilts and plaids of the proper tartan of Kincaid (videlicet – 22 Black, (pivot) 34 Green, 6 Red (centre) 34 Green etc) armed with steel cuirasses, their sleeves being also of Kincaid tartan and from shoulder belts basket-hilted swords, their hats Azure plumed of an ostrich feather Argent and banded counter compory Argent and Gules, holding in their exterior hands Lochaber Axes proper.”<sup>104</sup>

The Kincaid motto, “This I’ll Defend” or minor variations of it, seems to have remained constant with the single exception of the change by the surgeon, Thomas Kincaid, to “Incidendo Sano”. However, Fairbairn’s *Crests* gives another motto, “Bis Te Ici”.<sup>105</sup> This is linked to the crest holding a lancet rather than a sword, and this suggests that it is, or has been, used by one branch of the descendants of Thomas Kincaid, the Edinburgh surgeon. Alternatively, as the lancet illustrated is significantly different to Thomas’s bistoury, it might have been used by Alexander Kincaid, the other notable Edinburgh surgeon. Regrettably, it has been impossible so far to unearth any other reference to this motto.

Although there is no record that he matriculated his arms, Major General William Kincaid, a descendant of Thomas Kincaid, the surgeon, used Kincaid arms impaled with his wife’s. They are shown on bookplates. On the right side of the shield (that is the left as you view it) are the fess ermine, the two gold mullets and the silver castle with black markings, all on the red shield. The crest is the hand holding the surgeon’s scalpel, or bistoury, and the motto is “Incidendo Sano”.

<sup>104</sup> *The Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland*, volume 43, folio 86.

<sup>105</sup> *Fairbairn’s Book of Crests*, T.C and E.C. Jack. London and Edinburgh, 1905, volume I, page 319 and volume II, plate 216, number 14.



If some of the above descriptions of Kincaid arms seem long and complicated, then they should be compared with that of Alwyne Kincaid of Kincaid, who matriculated arms in 1960. It runs to 53 lines and proves his right to the title, despite the need to change his surname to Kincaid.

### American Matriculation

Of course, arms are not confined to citizens of the old country – heraldry is a worldwide science. And those of Kincaid descent can apply to matriculate arms or, if it is impossible to prove descent from an ancestor who registered arms in the past, for a grant of a new coat of arms. Indeed, Jesse Harvey Kincaid of Bonham, Texas, USA, matriculated arms in 1968, suitably differenced:

“Per pale Gules and Sable, on a fesse Ermine between in chief an annulet accompanied by two mullets and in base a castle triple-towered all Or, three roses Vert, barbed and seeded Gules, a bordure per pale Sable and Or charged with three crescents countercharged for difference. Above the shield is placed an helmet befitting his degree, with a mantling Gules doubled Or, and on a wreath of the Liveries is set for crest a castle triple-towered Argent, masoned Sable, issuant from the centre tower a dexter arm embowed, vested in the proper tartan of the name of Kincaid and grasping a broadsword in bend proper; accompanied on either side by a rose Vert, barbed and seeded Gules, and in an Escrol over the same this motto DEFENSIO NON OFFENSIO.”<sup>106</sup>

The differencing to show Jesse's descent is extensive. While the traditional Kincaid castle is there, it is now Or (gold), rather than Argent (silver) and the two mullets have been joined by an annulet, again in gold. The shield itself has been divided in two vertically (per pale), one half Gules (red), the other Sable (black), to indicate that he is American. The traditional Kincaid fess ermine has been charged with three roses Vert (green), with thorns and seeds red, apparently representing Lennox roses, because the “Kincaids were anciently of the Lennox”. The bordure, or border, round the shield, again divided vertically, but this time black and gold, shows that Jesse is a fifth generation descendant of John Kincaid (1771-1814) who registered arms. The crescents on the border differentiate Jesse from other fifth generation descendants. The crest is recognisably the traditional Kincaid one, but the motto is different.

<sup>106</sup> *The Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland*, volume 51, folio 95.

Complicated? Maybe, but it shows the principle that each coat of arms is unique to the holder and his heir – and not the property of other descendants of the same name.

### **Tartan**

Highland dress, as we know it today is a relatively recent invention, dating from the visit of King George IV to Edinburgh in 1822. The old tartans, however, are not. In the Highlands each clan had its own tartan and in the Lowlands there were ‘district’ tartans. The Lennox tartan was the ‘district’ tartan of the Lennoxes, the Kincaids, the Stirlings and all others who lived on the Lennox estates between Dunbarton and Stirling. This ‘district’ tartan of Lennox, mainly red and green, is shown quite distinctly in a painting dating from the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century. This may seem old, but tartans existed long before this: in Falkirk, a piece of cloth woven in a checked pattern using two colours of natural wool, one dark brown and one a paler cream was dug up in 1934, with a hoard of silver Roman coins, some dated 230 A.D.

The Kincaid tartan is an early 19<sup>th</sup> century invention, albeit a handsome one. It is mainly black and green, but has a thin red line in the centre. It is properly described as follows:

22 Black (pivot), 34 Green, 6 Red (centre), 34 Green, 22 Black (pivot)

Before its introduction, the Kincaids used to wear the Lennox tartan as did all the families in the Lennox lands.

Arms and tartan are therefore a distinct part of Kincaid history. While the tartan worn by Kincaids has changed, the Kincaid Arms in use today are much as they were more than four centuries ago – and probably earlier. The change from landowner to public servant has not altered the importance of Arms, for great soldiers, statesmen and other luminaries require them. Those Kincaids who reach eminence today have the basis for their own arms already in existence.















Lennox tartan on Kincaid tartan





# **CHAPTER FOUR**

## **KINCAIDS IN EDINBURGH**

The Kincaids who lived in Edinburgh from the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century were directly descended from the early Kincaids of Kincaid. William Kincaid of Kincaid in 1447 also owned the lands of Craiglockhart, which lay to the south-west of the city and included Craig House, and his son, Robert, succeeded to the estate. Robert's nephew, Thomas, owned the lands at Coates, close to the west end of the city. Other Kincaids settled at Warriston to the north-west of the city; at Hillhousefield between Edinburgh and Leith; in the district of Sciennes south of Edinburgh by the Dominican Nunnery of St Catherine of Siena; and at Gogar which is close by the site of today's Edinburgh Turnhouse airport. Although exact relationships are not completely certain, it is clear that they were all closely related to the Kincaids of Kincaid.

In 1670, Edinburgh was still a small town, consisting of a relatively narrow area running from just west of the Castle eastwards to the Palace and Abbey of Holyroodhouse, with a population of around 35,000. In 1447, when Kincaids first lived there, it must have been smaller still (probably well under 10,000 inhabitants), with the well-to-do living in large houses or estates outside the city. It was primarily a city of royalty and government, protected by the mighty castle.

### **Craiglockhart and Craig House**

Sometime before 1447, William Kincaid of Kincaid appears to have acquired or inherited the estate of Craiglockhart which lay two miles to the south of the city walls. It has been suggested that the origin of the name was 'Craig-loch-ard', referring to the large Corstophine loch that once extended to the northern slopes of the Craiglockart estate. The estate occupied two forested hills and may well have been bounded by the water of Leith to the west and the Pentland Hills to the south. The ancient ruined tower which still stands on the south side of the Craiglockart Road is considered to be of a 13<sup>th</sup>



century keep, one of a chain of mediaeval signal towers on which beacons were lit to give warning of the approach of English invaders.<sup>107</sup> Craig House occupied the northern of the two hills and Craiglockhart Castle was built much later on the southern.

Craiglockhart was still held by the Kincaids of Kincaid in 1574, when a royal grant was made:

“... to James Kincaid, son and heir apparent of James Kincaid of that Ilk, and Christina Leslie, his spouse, and the survivor in conjunct infestment and their lawful heirs, whom failing, the heirs and assignees of said James younger, of the lands of Craiglockhart with tower, fortalice, manor etc, (occupied by Stephen Kincaid) in the sherifffdom of Edinburgh.”

Craiglockhart was probably the Kincaids' first permanent connection with Edinburgh, a city that was to witness both some of the best and the worst of Kincaid history.

“About two miles to the south-west of Edinburgh, on the slope of the Craiglockhart hill, there is a mansion called Craig House of the period of James VI, and which in that time belonged to a branch of the old family of Kincaid. On the 17<sup>th</sup> December 1600, John Kincaid of Craig House, attended by a party of friends and servants, all ‘bodin in feir of weir, with swords, secrets and other weapons’ came to the village of Water of Leith, also closely adjacent to Edinburgh, and there attacked the house of baillie John Johnston ‘where Isobel Hutcheon, widow, was in sober, quiet and peaceable manner for the time, dreading nae evil, harm, injury or pursuit of ony persons, but to have lived under God’s peace and our sovereign lord’s.’ Kincaid ‘violently and forcibly brak up the doors of the said dwelling house, entered therein, and put violent hands on the said Isobel’s person, took her captive, reft, ravished, and took her away with him to his place of Craig House, where he detained her, till his majesty being upon the fields, accompanied with John, Earl of Mar, Sir John Ramsey and divers others, hearing of the committing of sich ane horrible fact, directed [his said companions] to follow him and relieve her furth of his hands. Wha having cometo his place of Craig House, and requiring for her relief, he refused to grant the same, till they menaced to bring his majesty about the said house and to raise fire therein, and so compelled him to relieve her.’ Kincaid was tried for this and was ordered by the king to pay a fine of 2500 merks, payable ‘to us and our treasurer, as also he shall deliver to us and our treasurer his brown horse’.”<sup>108</sup>

<sup>107</sup> *Historic South Edinburgh*, Charles J. Smith, John Donald, Edinburgh, 2000, page 276.

<sup>108</sup> *Domestic Annals of Scotland*, Robert Chambers, W & R Chambers, Edinburgh and London, 1858-1861, Volume I, pages 223-224.





Map of Edinburgh area c.1600

By kind permission of the Carson Clark Gallery, Edinburgh

Kincaid appears to have been imprisoned, possibly for failing to pay his fine, but he was released in 1601, on promising not to leave the borough. In 1606 he succeeded Sir James Kincaid of Kincaid in the lands of Craiglockhart, while in 1609 he succeeded to some lands at Toll Cross, outside the West Port of Edinburgh.<sup>109</sup> He seems to have got rather more than his just deserts.

Craiglockhart was resigned by the Sir James Kincaid of that Ilk, with the consent of his wife, Lady Margaret Hamilton, to Sir Robert Hamilton in 1609 and the estate was granted the same year to George Foulis, a wealthy goldsmith who had lent large sums of money to King James VI, reputedly some £180,000 Scots. Money may have spoken, but the evil deeds of John Kincaid of Craighouse may have shouted rather louder as some have suggested:

“Because members of this family [Kincaid of Craighouse] were so frequently involved in disputes and feuds with various Edinburgh citizens, their lands at Criglockhart were eventually forfeited.”<sup>110</sup>

<sup>109</sup> *Cassell's Old and New Edinburgh*, James Grant, Cassell & Co, London 1883, volume III, page 42.

<sup>110</sup> *Historic South Edinburgh*, Charles J. Smith, John Donald, Edinburgh 2000, page 277.



However, it seems more likely that they were lost through non-payment of debt.

### Coates

*Associated Genealogical Table Number 3 is at page 267.*

The first mention of Kincaids in Coates (spelled variously as Cotis or Coittis) comes in about 1511, when Thomas Kincaid of the Coates is mentioned.<sup>111</sup> He was probably the son of David Kincaid, bailie of Edinburgh, who is on record several times between 1467 and 1493, and he may well have also been Constable of Edinburgh Castle.

His son Thomas was certainly Constable of Edinburgh Castle as is evident from two records in 1511<sup>112</sup> and 1513,<sup>113</sup> while Thomas's son David is recorded as "constabill of the castell of Edinburcht" in 1543.<sup>114</sup> According to Sir James Ferguson, Keeper of the Records of Scotland in 1963,<sup>115</sup> the official records do not show any Kincaids as having been Constable; however, a history of Edinburgh Castle<sup>116</sup> lists the Constables from 1542 and the first name it shows is David Kincaid. Clearly, official records should be amended to show both David and his father, Thomas, on the list of Constables.

David was almost certainly the last Kincaid to hold the post of Constable. Although Sir James Ferguson stated that the post was not heritable, this may not have been the case before 1543; certainly both Thomas and his son David were holders of the post and Thomas's father, David, may well have been, too. The tradition handed down in family folklore is that the post was vested in the Kincaid family. If that is so, why the change?

The answer may lie in a letter. On 30<sup>th</sup> November 1547, William Grey of Wilton wrote to Lord Somerset:

"A Scotsman Patrick Kynkayde came this day to me showing great displeasure to the Governor and the Captain of Edinburgh, for expelling his master captain of the castle in the late King of Scotland's time and his own kinsman then constable under him, from their offices – also his present master 'expulsed' by the Governor from the Bishopric of Dunkeld now held by his brother the Abbot of Paisley. In revenge he offers to deliver the castle, captain etc., by means of the porter his familiar and fellow under the old captain, who is ready

<sup>111</sup> *Protocol Book of John Fowler*, volume I (1500-1513), page 296.

<sup>112</sup> *Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1901, volume IV, page 277.

<sup>113</sup> *Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*, volume IV, page 445.

<sup>114</sup> *Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*, volume VIII, page 184.

<sup>115</sup> Letter from Sir James Ferguson to Olivia Brisbin, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1963.

<sup>116</sup> *A Short History of Edinburgh Castle*, Gray.



on notice, to open the gates to any band of Englishmen he brings. He asks for reward 1000 crowns. He has dealt – the keeper of the Grey Friars port, a poor man, to let him past secretly at night to see a woman he loveth without the town – and hopes to get the keys from him the night of the attempt or else to be let in then kill him. I am to send 50 horsemen from Hume Castle, to arrive soon after midnight ‘at a cawsye on Borowmore’, half a mile from Edinburgh, where he will meet and bring them in by the Gray Friars port ‘a close way little inhabited by people’, to the Castle gates. After them, they shall be let through all other gates by the porter’s keys, and find no obstacle but chamber doors, easily broken with pieces of timber, of which there are plenty. The plan is not dangerous – the castle victualled for 100 men for a twelvemonth – only 8 men there in the absence of the Governor, and 20 men when he is there. There are but 3 watchmen, who trust the gates wholly to the porter. It seems feasible enough, but I advertise your grace first, and have given him encouragement, promising further reward on success. If your grace approve, there are men enough at Hume and here the most should be strangers led by these captains Pellam and Baghoste my servant ... if you approve, send me with haste, for fear the Governor and Queen mind to lay a garrison there, who perchance shall keep better watch.

I am often doubtful in my proceedings for your grace does not answer my letters, but I beseech you have me in remembrance.

Signed Wyllyam Grey, Norham Castle.”<sup>117</sup>

This Patrick Kincaid was probably the illegitimate son (legitimated in 1541) of David Kincaid of Coates who would have been “his own kinsman then constable”. Patrick may not have wanted to declare that he was the illegitimate son of the former Constable or, if he did, Grey may have chosen not to mention it.

What became of this offer is not known, but Edward Seymour, Duke of Somerset had other more pressing problems in England at that time. Henry VIII had died early in 1547, and in the last few months of his reign, Somerset needed to secure his base for the immediate future. He outmanoeuvred the Duke of Norfolk and executed the Earl of Surrey on charges of treason. On the death of Henry and the accession of the sickly young boy, Edward VI, he had engineered himself into a powerful position: uncle, guardian and chief counsellor of the boy-king. Now he had more rivals and as many enemies; clearly, his priorities did not include the taking of Edinburgh Castle. But, equally clearly, it can be seen from the above letter that David Kincaid had been ousted from the post of Constable of the Castle sometime between 1542 and 1547. Not surprisingly, perhaps, because the struggle between the various factions in Scotland seesawed backwards and forwards as furiously

<sup>117</sup> *Calendar of Scottish Papers*, edited Joseph Bain, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1898, volume I, 1547-1563.



as it did in England between Catholics and Protestants from the death of Henry VIII to the accession of Elizabeth I.

David was the eldest of his father's seven sons and inherited his father's lands of Coates. In 1532,

"... it was declared by said David that at the building of said Edward's house, Whit. 1531, on the south side of King Street be north the Netherbow, which pertained to the deceased Robert Carmichael, bounded on west by said David's land, David gave permission for certain doors and windows to be built on his property."<sup>118</sup>

Edward, burgess of Edinburgh and later sheriff, was apparently building close to the property of his brother, David. Coates lay in the triangle made between what is now Shandwick Place and Queensferry Street, and what is now Drumsheugh and the area in which St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral stands.

In this charter, David is styled as "in Coates", not "of Coates", so it seems that he was not yet in possession of the Coates property at that date; in 1538 he witnessed a charter<sup>119</sup> and was styled as David Kincaid of Coates, so we can conclude that he inherited Coates on the death of his father, Thomas, between 1531 and 1538.

At a rather advanced age, David married Isobel Cockburn, the widow of John Wardlaw of Ricartoun, in 1546. But earlier in his life, he had fathered two illegitimate sons. Patrick, described in the record as "bastard, natural son of David Kincaid, constable of the castle of Edinburgh", was legitimised in 1541<sup>120</sup> and David, "bastard, natural son of David Kincaid of Coates", in 1546.<sup>121</sup> These sons could not inherit and it was David's eldest legitimate son, John, who inherited Coates in 1555. Coates then passed on down through the generations to Clement Kincaid.

The Coates estate was split in about 1560, when the descendants of James, brother of David (the last Constable), took the western half. One of James's descendents, a younger son who died in 1576, was styled as Captain William of the White Hall of the Coates.

How large was Coates is not clear, but the whole Coates estate must have been fairly extensive, given its proximity to Edinburgh. A charter in 1641 certainly suggests as much:

<sup>118</sup> *Protocol Book of Vincent Strathauchin*, volume II (1524-1533), page 148.

<sup>119</sup> *Calendar of Laing Charters AD 854-1837*, edited Rev John Anderson, Edinburgh, 1899, number 426.

<sup>120</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1921, volume II, number 4073.

<sup>121</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1936, volume III, number 2076.

“28 January 1641. Charter by Sir George Tours of Garmilton to Thomas Mudie, burgess of Edinburgh, those seven acres of the arable lands of Coittis called Langlands, lying between the lands of the late Clement Kincaid, portioner of Coittis, on the south and north and the Corsburne on the west; also those nine acres of the lands of Coittis of which five are called the ‘Buchtsteidis’ and formally occupied by the late John Kincaid of Warriston and Mr Robert Glen, lying between the lands of the late James Kincaid, portioner of Coittis ...”<sup>122</sup>

Coates was apparently lost to the Kincaids sometime after 1682, although the eastern half was made over to the Bells in 1650:

“Precept by John Byres, lawful son of late Sir John Byres of Coates, knight, as superior, for infefting John Bell, grandson of John Bell, deceased, son of late James Bell, residing at Water of Leith, in that eastern half of a portion of ground of the lands of Coates and houses lying at the Waters of Leith, between the rivulet called the Stryp [and the road] running from Bowbutloch on the east to Belsmylne on the south, other pieces of land belonging to James Kincaid, laird of the feu ferm of the other half of Coates, Andrew Johnstoun and Agnes Kincaid, his spouse, subtenants on the west, and the Water of Leith on the north.”<sup>123</sup>

### Brochton

Another brother of David Kincaid, the last Kincaid Constable, rented land at Brochton, which was an estate just outside the north walls of Edinburgh on the Leith road. Stephen Kincaid is mentioned as living in Brochton in 1555 and 1561. He died in 1573 and was succeeded by Stephen, John and then Thomas. The last mention of Kincaids in Brochton occurs in 1633.

### Warriston

*Associated Genealogical Table Number 4 is at page 270.*

The first mention of the Warriston Kincaids occurs in 1546, and it is possible that the owner at that date was the first Kincaid of Warriston. It is just possible that he was the illegitimate son of William Kincaid of Kincaid, although there is no evidence beyond the matching of names and dates.

The estate of Warriston lay to the north-west of Edinburgh and south-west of Leith. Early in the 16<sup>th</sup> century it belonged to the Somervilles whose mansion house, situated on a small hill, must have been a conspicuous object

<sup>122</sup> *Calendar of Laing Charters AD 854-1837*, edited Rev John Anderson, Edinburgh, 1899, number 2285.

<sup>123</sup> *Calendar of Laing Charters AD 854-1837*, edited Rev John Anderson, Edinburgh, 1899, number 2407.



in the open and desolate expanse between Edinburgh and the Firth of Forth. By 1546, and probably earlier, Warriston had passed to the Kincaids. John, the first known Laird, was in Leith as early as 1529 and probably bought Warriston soon after. By 1546 he was a very old man, so worn out that he could no longer travel the short distance (two miles) to Edinburgh. He received a licence from the Queen excusing him from attendance at court. The licence was issued to:

“John Kincaid of Warriston making mention that he is of great age, weak of complexion and vexed with diverse infirmities and sickness, so that he may not goodly endure travel without danger of his life and increasing of his sickness; therefore our sovereign lady gives him licence to remain and byde at home from all oistis etc, and from all compering and passing upon inquests or assizes etc during his lifetime etc; Providing always that the said John send one man for him . . . to the said oistis at all times when need be . . .”<sup>124</sup>

John died soon after this. His eldest son, also John, was Laird of Warriston in 1550 when he was charged with killing a French sailor off the coast of Newhaven and then acquitted. He married Margaret Bellenden and had at least three sons and two daughters. The eldest son, another John, inherited Warriston, and the second son inherited Auchinreoch.

The third John of Warriston married Jean Ramsay and inherited the estate in 1569. In 1591:

“Jean Ramsey, Lady Warriston, was forcibly abducted by Robert Cairncross and three other men in the month of March for which they were captured and tried . . .”<sup>125</sup>

John and Jean had a large family including seven sons. The eldest became the fourth John of Warriston. His wife Jean Livingstone, the daughter of the Laird of Dunipace, was from all accounts a great beauty. She was young, probably about fifteen years of age on her wedding day. But her husband was said to be a coarse and dissolute man who ill-treated her repeatedly. After five years of marriage she could stand it no longer. With the help of the nurse and a groom she plotted her husband's murder. On 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1600 the groom, Robert Weir, was admitted by Mrs Kincaid and hidden in the cellar. At midnight he crept out and Jean led him to her husband's room where he with clenched fists struck him in the jugular vein, threw him to the ground, kicked him and throttled him. While Weir was assaulting her husband, Jean is said to have gone to the hall and waited until the deed was done, although this did

<sup>124</sup> *Register of the Great Seal of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1936, volume VII, folio 2058, page 325-326.

<sup>125</sup> *Cassell's Old and New Edinburgh*, Cassell & Co, London, 1883.



not stop her from hearing the pitiful cries uttered by her husband. She tried to weep but was unable to shed a tear.

Weir fled, but Jean and the nurse remained at Warriston. There they were arrested and brought before the magistrates who ordered Mrs Kincaid to be strangled and the nurse to be burnt at the stake. Her relations were shamed by the publicity given to the deed and the Laird of Dunipace used his influence with King James VI. The King ordered that she should be decapitated rather than strangled, and at such an early hour that few people would be about, and that the nurse should be burnt on Castle Hill at the same time to attract the attention of those who were up and about. In the interval before the execution, Jean was “brought by the discourse of an amiable clergyman, from a state of callous indifference to one of lively sensibility and religious resignation”, regarding her death as a just expiation of her offence. At four o’clock in the morning she was conducted to the Girth Cross, at the opposite end of the city from Castle Hill. According to a contemporary pamphlet:

“The whole way, as she went to the place of execution, she behaved herself so cheerfully, as if she had been going to her wedding, and not to her death. When she came to the scaffold, and was carried up upon it, she looked up to the Maiden with two longsome looks, for she had never seen it before. This, I may say of her, to which all that saw will bear record, that her only countenance moved (her countenance alone would have excited emotion) although she had not spoken a word. For there appeared such majesty in her countenance and visage and such a heavenly courage in her gesture, that many said: ‘That woman is ravished with a higher spirit than man or woman’s!’ After reading a short address to the multitude at the four corners of the scaffold, she calmly resigned herself to her fate, uttering expressions of devotion till the descent of the axe cut short her speech.”

Weir, the groom, was arrested four years later and was sentenced to be broken on the wheel and his body, still on the wheel, to be exhibited in a public place between Warriston and Leith until the order for burial was made. This was a severe death, and had hardly ever before been inflicted in Scotland. The whole affair attracted considerable attention, partly due to the fact that both Jean’s father and husband were men of some note, but perhaps more because of the murderess’s youth and beauty. Contemporary ballads were composed, two of which are reproduced at the end of this chapter, paying tribute to her pretty feet and slender waist.<sup>126</sup>

Most of the descriptions of the murder were written long after the event and it is possible that Jean has been somewhat whitewashed and her husband

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<sup>126</sup> There are many accounts of this murder, including those in *Domestic Annals of Scotland*, Robert Chambers, W & R Chambers, Edinburgh and London, 1858-1861, volume I, page 316-317; *Dictionary of National Biography*, volume XI, page 123; *History of Stirlingshire*, William Nimmo, volume 2, page 287.



demonised. There are suggestions that Robert Weir was Jean's lover and had had a child by him.

"There are very few references to the murder in contemporary sources and much of what we have was put down in writing in the early 1800s. If the so-called conversion of Lady Warriston had had a big impact on the populace this would have been reflected in contemporary references. The poems do not refer to her conversion but tell the tale of a young woman who married for money and killed her husband. The facts support that she was prompted to murder him because he beat her on one occasion. There is evidence that this was due to her having an affair while he was away at sea and that this produced a child. I am inclined to this account as it is clear that there was no sympathy for the murder and her own family was eager to have her put away. This fits perfectly with the account of adultery being behind the murder. John Kincaid was certainly not a desirable husband and he certainly beat her on one occasion. Over the years, however, the story turned from her being a misguided young woman who married for money to a poor righteous beautiful young woman who was the victim of an abusive husband."<sup>127</sup>

From the report of the trial of Robert Weir in 1604,<sup>128</sup> which Pitcairn appears to have reproduced from the trial minutes themselves, John Kincaid cuts a very unpleasant figure, as does Jean Livingstone.

"In as much as the deceased Jean Livingstone, goodwife of Warriston, having consuming and deadly hatred and malice against John Kincaid of Warriston for the alleged biting of her in the arm, and striking her divers times ..."

Whatever the real truth, John Kincaid does seem to have been a violent man and his wife a younger, attractive woman. However, she is unlikely to have chosen her husband herself because it would have been her father who would have had her married for money. She paid the price.

The murdered Laird's son was an infant and was looked after by his uncles Patrick (until his death) and Thomas. But the boy died in 1619, and Thomas the guardian became Thomas Kincaid, the Laird of Warriston. Thomas had four sons. His second son, John, may be the Kincaid who settled on the lands of Huck and Saltcoats on the Forth between Falkirk and Linlithgow, which his father held in feu from the Earl of Callendar.<sup>129</sup> His story is continued in Chapter Five. His eldest brother, another Thomas, succeeded to the Warriston estate, but had only one son who predeceased him. Warriston was inherited by the eldest daughter, Mary, who sold the estate in 1672.

<sup>127</sup> E-mail from Peter A. Kincaid to the author, 19:48, 23 February 2003.

<sup>128</sup> *Criminal Trials in Scotland*, Robert Pitcairn, William Tait, Edinburgh, 1833, page 448.

<sup>129</sup> *The Falkirk and Callendar Regality Court Book*, The Stair Society, Edinburgh, volume I, number 58.11, page 64.

The murdered Laird's sister, Elizabeth, was married to William Cockburn of that Ilk, who made over lands to her on their marriage:

“10 July 1610. The King confirmed the charter made by William Cockburn of that Ilk whereby, for the fulfilment of a contract of marriage dated at Edinburgh, 3 May 1596, he granted to Elizabeth Kincaid, his spouse, lawful daughter of the deceased John Kincaid of Warriston and Jean Ramsey, his spouse, in liferent, the lands of the lordship of Cockburn, with the fortalice, manor place, grain and fulling mills, fisheries, meadows, tenants, etc., and the lands of Lochbirghame, alias Lochtoun, with the mill, tenants etc., in the sheriffdom of Beruik, to be held of the King.”<sup>130</sup>

This suggests the extensive size of hereditary property at that time.

### Sciennes

The second John Kincaid of Warriston married Margaret Bellenden, whose sister Christian was a nun, in time becoming the prioress of the Dominican convent of St Catherine of Siena which lay outside the Grey Friars port to the south of the City, in a district that became known as Sciennes.

“At this date, 7 March 1567, the aged prioress was residing at Warriston, the property of her relative [brother-in-law], Sir [?] John Kincaid . . . On the 5 July 1567, Dame Christian, with the remainder of her sisterhood, feued out to Henry Kincaid, second son of John Kincaid of Warriston, the whole of the 18 acres, part of the grange of St Giles which had been handed out to the nunnery by John Cant and Sir John Crawford in 1517. This land was afterwards disposed by Henry Kincaid of Auchinreoch, Marion Touris his spouse, John Kincaid their eldest son, with his wife Helen Carriber to John Napier.”<sup>131</sup>

The hospital connected to the convent was also claimed by Henry, but:

“The hospital, which was presumably a place for the reception of the neighbouring sick, appears to have reverted after the Reformation to the possession of the Town Council. After some trouble with a neighbouring proprietor, Henry Kincaid, who also claimed the buildings, the magistrates took possession in 1575 and used it as an isolation hospital for persons suffering from the plague, which had been prevalent in Edinburgh.”<sup>132</sup>

<sup>130</sup> *Register of the Great Seal of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1892, volume VII, number 325.

<sup>131</sup> *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*, T & A Constable, Edinburgh, 1925, volume X, pages 137-146.

<sup>132</sup> *History of Scottish Medicine*, John Comrie, Wellcome Museum, London 1932, page 115, quoting from the *Records of the Burgh of Edinburgh 1573-1589*.



Henry had years of trouble ahead as his ownership of Sciennes was repeatedly challenged by the Edinburgh Town Council.

“After the reformation the chapel of Sciennes Hall remained in a ruined condition for many years, and the whole of Sir John’s four-and-a-half acres were feued off by the city in the year 1592 only after a long litigation between the Town Council and Henry Kincaid.”<sup>133</sup>

Other buildings were also claimed both by the Council and by Henry and it was not until 1593 that the matter was finally settled and Henry was confirmed as owner by King James VI. By this time Henry had inherited Auchinreoch and, after so much trouble with Sciennes, he sold it having conferred with his heir, John, and John’s wife, Helen Carriber, whose dowry had been extensive land in the area south-west of Linlithgow.

### Hillhousefield

The Laird of Warriston, who was murdered in 1600, had six brothers, one of whom, called Archibald, inherited his father’s land at Hillhousefield which then lay south of Leith, although now it is part of Edinburgh.

Despite its rural surroundings, Hillhousefield was hardly a peaceful place in those days:

“The landed gentry had little regard for law and order and on the slightest provocation would turn their weapons against each other. The Logans of Bonnington carried on a bitter feud with the Kincaids of Warriston, whose lands marched with Bonnington on the west. The Laird of Warriston at this time was the young son of that Jean Livingstone who was beheaded in 1600.

In addition to their patrimonial estates, the Logans and the Kincaids owned portions of the lands of Hillhousefield. The feud between the Logans and Kincaids may have arisen over the question of boundaries, for the Kincaids had no convenient access to Hillhousefield except through Bonnington. Anyhow the two families ‘daylie made provocation one to another’. In December 1605, the Privy Council had before them a petition from George Logan of Bonnington and his son Robert. It set forth how when coming ‘fra the place and manor of Bonnington to the town of Leith’ they were fiercely set upon by Patrick Kincaid, tutor (guardian of the young laird) of Warriston and others. The Logans avenged this attack whereupon the Kincaids waved a summons against their enemies who, armed with swords and other weapons, attacked them while visiting Hillhousefield and would have slain them had not some of the inhabitants of the North Brig of Leith interposed. The Kincaids, according to their story, returned to Warriston but were pursued by the

<sup>133</sup> *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*, T & A Constable, Edinburgh, 1925, volume X, page 102.



Logans who again attacked them, Thomas Kincaid being wounded. Both families were ordered by the Privy Council to give assurances to the extent of 3000 merks until 1 January 1608 that they would keep the peace. At the same time, Sir George Touris of Inverlieth, an ally of the Kincaids had to pledge himself in the sum of 3000 merks not to invade the territory of the Logans. But both Kincaids and Logans pursued their feud as fiercely as ever.

On 3 January 1607 the two families had to give fresh assurances to the extent of 5000 merks. But no sooner had they left the council chamber than swords clashed between them. For this insolence the council ordered them to be warded in the Castle. How long they were kept there does not appear but more than 18 months after, in August 1608, Andrew Logan of Coatfield for the Logans and Josiah Touris for the Kincaids pledged themselves for £1000 sterling each that the two families would refrain from harming each other.”<sup>134</sup>

A large slice (22 acres) of the Hillhousefield estate had been held by the Gourlay family for generations, but in 1641 Archibald bought them out and then his son added another four-and-a-half acres to the estate three years later. Archibald died in 1642 but his son Archibald inherited. Archibald junior died in 1667, unmarried, and the estate passed to his nephew, William Ornock, who assumed the inheritance only after intense pressure had been put on him, as he dreaded becoming responsible for his grandfather's and his uncle's debts.

### Over Gogar and Carlowrie

Henry's eldest son, who became John Kincaid of Auchinreoch, seemed to own land everywhere, although his ownership was normally of a short duration. Before he inherited Auchinreoch he had land at Carriber, Over Gogar and Over Mungwall.

Over Gogar is situated between what is now Edinburgh (Turnhouse) Airport and the Union Canal. It may have stretched as far east of the Kincaid lands of Coates and the Kincaid lands of Craiglockart, although it is doubtful if John of Auchinreoch owned more than a small portion of the Gogar Estate. On Henry of Auchinreoch's death, his eldest son John inherited Auchinreoch, but Gogar went to his second son Thomas.

Gogar remained family property for well over a century, but in 1723 an incident occurred which seemed to seal its fate. Thomas, son of the Laird of Gogar Maines, was from all accounts a brutal man, and one day Elizabeth Murray, “lady to Thomas Kincaid, younger of Gogar Maynes”<sup>135</sup> was found dead on the road from Edinburgh appearing to have been barbarously

<sup>134</sup> *History of the Old Edinburgh Club*, T&A Constable, Edinburgh, 1933, volume XIX, page 154.

<sup>135</sup> *Domestic Annals of Scotland*, Robert Chambers, W & R Chambers, Edinburgh and London, 1858-1861, volume III, page 473.



murdered. It was concluded that she had been murdered by her own husband who, in the meantime had escaped to Holland. That is the last we hear of the Kincaids of Over Gogar.

Carlowrie lies a mile or two north-west of Gogar. For a century, a Kincaid family lived here. The first record is from 1564, when James Kincaid is named as son and heir of John Kincaid of Carlowrie. He was succeeded as owner of Carlowrie by John, presumably his eldest son, who married Margaret Somervell. The last record we have is from 1650 when Robert Kincaid, probably John's eldest son, is described as "of Carlowrie". This may be the date of Robert's death and the end of Kincaids at Carlowrie.

### Auchinreoch

*Associated Genealogical Table Number 4 is at page 270.*

Although not in Edinburgh, it is convenient here to include Auchinreoch as John, the second Laird of Warriston, also owned that estate, the easternmost part of the Kincaid lands in Stirlingshire, lying south of the present Kilsyth-Kinkintilloch main road and about halfway between each town. The land, as with most of Kincaid, was agricultural. The remains of the old house can be seen, and to the south are the remains of an old Roman fort and wall. The old house was situated on a small rise which would have given a magnificent view across the valley to the south where now lies the Edinburgh-Glasgow main railway line and the Firth-Clyde canal. To the north stand now as then, the Campsie Fells and the Kilsyth Hills, which rise to a height of 1500 feet above the valley floor, and whose peaks have names like 'Earl's Seat' and 'Laird's Hill'.

For generations the house had been the possession of the Laird of Kincaid's heir. On the Laird's death the heir would inherit Kincaid and Auchinreoch would be used by the next heir. Thus it became known as "the Prince's House". However, it seems that this practice had been suspended for, on his death, John's eldest son inherited both Warriston and Auchinreoch and this link between the two estates almost certainly shows that the first Laird of Warriston was very closely related to the Kincaids of Kincaid, being perhaps a son or, at least, a nephew. However, the ownership of the two estates was split when John's second son, Henry, appears to have inherited Auchinreoch on the death of his elder brother. Henry married Marion Touris and in 1567 took possession of eighteen acres of the convent of St Catherine of Siena, a Dominican nunnery, under the prioress Dame Christian, as has already been noted.

Henry's eldest son, John, married Helen Cariber, and she may have brought as a dowry some land near Linlithgow. When she died, he married



Isobel Forsyth. His eldest son, also called John, inherited Auchinreoch, married Agnes Buchanan and had four or five sons and one daughter. It is not clear whether Thomas was one of these sons or a nephew, but whatever relation he was, he had a brilliant future before him.

Thomas Kincaid was a surgeon. Born in 1619, he must have made a mark on the world of medicine before he was 25, for in 1644 he, along with three other surgeons, was appointed to a surgeon's post in the Army of the Covenant which was to invade England and do battle on the English Parliamentary side against King Charles I.

Each of the surgeons was to have medical charge of two regiments or a brigade, and each was provided with two surgeon's mates and given the rank of major. Thomas must have been kept busy, not only by the battle casualties at Marston Moor and at Philliphaugh, where Montrose was defeated, but also by the inevitable diseases which accompanied armies in those days. Military surgeons at that time in Scotland were well paid and occupied a position of good standing. On 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1645, Thomas Kincaid signed a receipt for £180 for part of one month's pay and expenses:

“Colonell Rob. Montgumries Regiment of Horse. Paid to Thomas Kinked, surgeon, for furnishing of his chest and in part payment of one English months pay.”<sup>136</sup>

This seems a little high, even for Scottish military surgeons. Another source puts the figure for pay and expenses somewhat lower:

“Each of the surgeons received an allowance of £15 for furnishing his ‘kist’ [chest]. The pay was at the rate of 5s [shillings] daily for a surgeon and 4s for his two mates, with an additional allowance of 3s daily for their three riding horses, and 2s 6d for two baggage horses to carry their equipment (Acts of the Scottish Parliament, Volume VI, I, p74).”<sup>137</sup>

It is possible that the apparent discrepancy in the figures is due to the figure in the first quote being expressed in Scots pounds, and the figures in the second being given in pounds sterling.<sup>138</sup>

After the Civil War, Thomas returned to medicine in Edinburgh

“During the 1640s the number of master surgeons, which had never exceeded around twelve to sixteen, fell sharply, the crisis exacerbated by plague and other circumstances, so that in 1645 two apothecaries, James Borthwick and

<sup>136</sup> *Papers Relating to the Army of the Covenant*, quoted in the papers of Peter Kincaid, Mid-Muckroft Cottage, Milton-of-Campsie, c. 1930.

<sup>137</sup> *History of Scottish Medicine*, John D. Comrie, London, 1932, Volume I, page 231.

<sup>138</sup> One Scots pound, or 20s Scots, was worth only 1s 8d sterling.



Thomas Kincaid, were allowed to join the ranks of the surgeons without having served an apprenticeship to a master surgeon.”<sup>139</sup>

In 1657 these two set up as surgeon-apothecaries. Until this time, surgeons had been barbers as well and it had been the barber craft which had dominated their time, interest and income.

“From 1657 onwards, when Borthwick and Kincaid set up as surgeon-apothecaries, pharmacy had a greater attraction to the apprentices than the barber craft. Barber-surgeons who practised shaving, hair-cutting and minor surgery thus fell off in numbers, so much so that in 1682 the Town Council made a complaint to the Incorporation that there were only six barbers following the trade within the City walls.”<sup>140</sup>

This was an important step forward for medicine as was Thomas's work with the Royal College of Surgeons. He was made a member in 1646 and was treasurer from 1652-1655; in 1655 he was appointed Deacon (or President) an office which he held for three years. During his tenure, the Incorporation acquired Curriehill House and grounds for the sum of 3000 merks (£2000 Scots). There is no doubt that he was one of the most important men in Scottish medicine during the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and largely responsible for integrating the study of pharmacy with that of surgery:

“Along with James Borthwick of Stow, Thomas Kincaid was one of the most dominant members of the College [Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh] in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Together they were largely responsible for reviving the fortunes of the Incorporation of Surgeons in the 1650s and the setting up of the Incorporation of Surgeon Apothecaries.”<sup>141</sup>

He was perhaps lucky to live in a comparatively peaceful period, but with his serious, intelligent outlook he would probably have made his mark on any age. Thomas died in 1691 leaving seven children (three more had died in infancy<sup>142</sup>) and fifteen grandchildren.

“To the most pious memory of Mr Michael Young, most famous doctor of medicine; of Mr Robert Young, most faithful preacher of the gospel; . . . and to the memory of their most beloved sister, Mary Young, who exchanged life with death in February 1679. Thomas Kinkaid, chirurgeon and apothecarie at

<sup>139</sup> *Physicians, Surgeons and Apothecaries*, Helen Dingwall, Tuckwell Press, 1995, page 89.

<sup>140</sup> *History of Scottish Medicine*, John D. Comrie, London 1932, Volume I, page 246.

<sup>141</sup> Letter to the author from Steve Kerr, Assistant Librarian of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2003.

<sup>142</sup> *Register of Interments in Greyfriars Burying Ground (1658-1700)*.

Edinburgh, surviving husband to the said Mary, caused this monument to be erected.

At length here lyes the said Thomas Kinkaid of Auchinreoch, who exercised chirurgery and pharmacie in this city, for the space of forty-five years, with equal success and skill. Good was he in his life, prudent and honest in his actions, ingenuous and without guile in his words, whence he lives most acceptable to all good men, and purchast wealth, renown, honour and friends; and having left seven children of one wife, with fifteen grandchildren, he dyed, much lamented, 13<sup>th</sup> February, the year of our Lord 1691, and of his age 72

Chirurgeon skilful; pastour faithful too,  
Famous physician, loving wife as due,  
Are all here met, as in a common grave,  
When neither art nor learning could them save;  
Nor piety, nor modesty prevaile,  
Them to rescue, when death did them assail.  
All offices of life they serv'd so well,  
Their fame fills earth, their souls in heaven dwell.”<sup>143</sup>

Thomas inherited Auchinreoch late in life, and on his death it passed to his second son James with the consent of both Thomas and Michael his other sons. James had spent sometime in Holland prior to the ‘Glorious Revolution of 1688’, but whether he accompanied the forces of William III to England is not known.

In 1690 James married Margaret, daughter of his uncle or cousin William. Although she would normally have inherited Auchinreoch from her father, an arranged marriage to her cousin James would ensure that Auchinreoch remained in the family. However, if this was the plan, it had little effect. James and Margaret had one son and one daughter, but the son, James, did not marry and on his death the estate passed to his sister Margaret, who married William Buchanan. Their heirs inherited and took the name Buchanan-Kincaid.

“Sasine, dated 11<sup>th</sup> June 1768, in favour of John Buchanan alias Kincaid of Carbeth and Auchenreoch, parish of Campsie, under the condition that he shall assume and bear the arms of Kincaid of Auchenreoch Over and Nether in the 8 merkland of the lands of Auchenreoch and the condition that the said lands shall be burdened with the payment of £30 sterling yearly to Margaret Buchanan, eldest lawful daughter of William Buchanan of Carbeth and Margaret Kincaid, his wife ... also the burden of paying the lawful debts of deceased James Kincaid, sometime of Auchenreoch, who was brother german to said Margaret ...”<sup>144</sup>

<sup>143</sup> *Epitaphs and Monumental Inscriptions in Greyfriars Churchyard Edinburgh*, collected by James Brown, J. Moodie Miller, Edinburgh 1867, page 184-185.

<sup>144</sup> *Particular Register of Sasines Stirling*, volume XXII, folio 290.



Ninety years later, William Buchanan's successor was buried in Greyfriars Churchyard in Edinburgh and his grave is marked by a flat stone at the bottom of the monument to Sir Harry Munro, on which is engraved:

"Buchanan Kinkaid of Carbeth and Auchinreoch, 1858."<sup>145</sup>

Such a memorial hardly suggests wealth, and as there is no further mention of the Buchanan Kinkaids, we may conclude that the estate of Auchinreoch had by this time, or shortly afterwards, followed Warriston and Hillhousefield into other hands. By now little land was owned by Kincaids in Scotland, Kincaid being the only estate of importance remaining in the family's hands. Thomas the surgeon had proved that there were more important things in life than owning and farming relatively small areas of land.

The great surgeon's eldest son followed his father into medicine, but made his most lasting mark as a Royal Archer, a golf poet and, perhaps most famously, as the first man to write down instructions on how to play golf. These activities are detailed in his diary of 1687-1688, which is the subject of Spotlight III. Perhaps his main service to medicine was his donation of his book collection to the library of the Institution of Surgeon Apothecaries (now the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh).

"The core collection [of the Institution's library] was substantially boosted in 1708 with the acquisition of Thomas Kincaid's book collection . . . his donation was of considerable importance."<sup>146</sup>

In fact, he donated 229 volumes relating to medicine, surgery, anatomy, pharmacy, chemistry and botany, and these are detailed in the Incorporation's minutes of 1709. This 'small collection', as Thomas Kincaid called it, increased the stock in the Incorporation library by 200 per cent.

Little is known about the great surgeon's third son, Michael. He was still living in Edinburgh in 1688, but he may have accompanied some Hamiltons to Ireland in 1689. However, there are no records of a Michael Kincaid in Ireland around that time, and Michael is not a common Kincaid name. A reference in 1703 to a Michael Kincaid, collector of customs in Kelso in the Scottish Borders, may or may not refer to Thomas's son. However, whoever it was, a Kincaid accompanied the Hamiltons to Ireland to fight for William III, probably in 1689, and became the ancestor of major Irish branches. Thomas's son Michael remains the most likely candidate. This branch will be explored further in Chapter Seven.

<sup>145</sup> *Epitaphs and Monumental Inscriptions in Greyfriars Churhyard Edinburgh*, collected by James Brown, J. Moodie Miller, Edinburgh, 1867, page 186.

<sup>146</sup> *Physicians, Surgeon's and Apothecaries*, Helen Dingwall, Tuckwell Press, 1995, page 82.

The great surgeon's brother, another James, gave rise to a branch that moved to England, first to Gloucestershire and then to Kent. By then the Kincaids had vanished from Warriston, Auchinreoch and Hillhousefield and many had disappeared from Scotland.



# THE LAIRD OF WARISTOUN

*Jamieson's Popular Ballads, I, 109, as taken down by  
Sir Walter Scott from the recitation of his mother.*

Down by yon garden green  
Sae merrily as she gaes;  
She has twa weel-made feet,  
And she trips upon her taes.

She has twa weel-made feet,  
Far better is her hand;  
She's as jimp in the middle  
As ony willow-wand..

'Gif ye will do my bidding,  
At my bidding for to be,  
It's I will make you lady  
Of a' the lands you see.'

He spak a word in jest;  
Her answer wasna good;  
He threw a plate at her face,  
Made it a' gush out o' blood..

She wasna frae her chamber  
A step but barely three,  
When up and at her richt hand  
There stood Man's Enemy..

'Gif ye will do my bidding,  
At my bidding for to be,  
I'll learn you a wile  
Avenged for to be.'

The Foul Thief knotted the tether,  
She lifted his head on hie,  
The nourice drew the knot  
That gard lord Waristoun die.

Then word is gone to Leith,  
Also to Edinburgh town,  
That the lady had killd the laird,  
The laird o' Waristoun.

'Tak aff, tak aff my hood,  
But lat my petticoat be;  
Put my mantle oer my head,  
For the fire I downa see.

'Now, a' ye gentle maids,  
Tak warning now by me,  
And never marry ane  
But wha pleases your ee.

'For he married me for love  
But I married him for fee;  
And sae brak out the feud  
That gard my dearie die.'

*Kinloch's Ancient Scottish Ballads, p49, from the  
recitation of Jenny Watson.*

It was at dinner as they sat,  
And whan they drank the wine,  
How happy war the laird and lady  
Of bonnie Wariston!

The lady spak but ae word,  
The matter to conclude;  
The laird strak her on the mouth,  
Till she spat out o' blude.

She did not know the way  
Her mind to satisfy,  
Till evil cam into head  
All by the Enemy.

'At evening when ye sit,  
And whan ye drink the wine,  
See that ye fill the glass weill up  
To the laird o' Wariston.

So at table whan they sat,  
And whan they drank the wine,  
She made the glass aft gae round  
To the laird o' Wariston.

The nurice she knet the knot,  
And O she knet it sicker!  
The lady did gie it a twig,  
Till it began to wicker.

But word's gane down to Leith,  
And up to Embro toun,  
That the lady she has slain the laird,  
The laird o' Waristoun.

Word has gane to her father,  
the grit Dunipace,  
And an angry man was he;  
Cries, Gar mak a barrel o' pikes,  
And row her down some lea!

She said, Wae be to ye, Wariston,  
I wish ye may sink for sin!  
For I have been your wife  
These nine years, running ten;  
And I never loved ye sae well  
As now whan ye're lying slain.

'But tak aff this gowd brocade,  
And let my petticoat stay,  
And tie a handkerchief round my face,  
That the people may not see.'









## Spotlight III

# Thomas Kincaid and an Edinburgh Diary

*An Edinburgh Diary 1687-1688* by Thomas Kincaid is the most detailed account of a young man's life of that time in Edinburgh that is known to posterity. Thomas was the son of Thomas Kincaid of Auchinreoch, the great Edinburgh surgeon. He was born in Edinburgh in 1661 and was in his mid-twenties when the diary was written.

Naturally he followed his father's interest in medicine and he studied pharmacy in detail, reading all the important books in the field which included books by Thomas Willis, Thomas Sydenham, Nicholas Culpeper, Lazarus Riverius and Daniel Sennertus. He studied intensively, making elaborate notes which he impressed on his mind by "digesting them into verse". In the first part of the Diary there are references nearly every day to what he had read and what he had "digested into verse". Later on, he spends less time and thought on medicine as he becomes more involved in other activities.

Outside his medical studies, he read fairly widely. Apart from theological works, he mentions, among others, Sir Thomas Browne's *Vulgar Errors*, Wilkin's *World in the Moon*, Sir Thomas Hope's *Scotch Fencing Master*, Bennet's *Travels*, Sir James Turner's military essays, and Dryden's *Hind And the Panther*. His lighter reading included *The Woman turned Bully*, *The Night Adventurer*, and the Banquet of the Gods in *The Extravagant Shepherd*. He also found time for Ovid and Baccaccio.

### Religion and Politics

Thomas was a religious man as might be expected of one who lived in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but he fails to record in his diary any comment on the religious events which were taking place around him. There is nothing about King James's attempt to reimpose Roman Catholicism on a Presbyterian nation nor does he mention the Covenanters, but he does record the Prince's declaration and describes the Anti-Popish Riot at the Abbey. Thomas grew



up as an Episcopalian, but on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1687, the Privy Council proclaimed the final royal indulgence of James II which granted freedom of worship to all Presbyterians. From that moment Thomas changed from attending his parish church of Tron, participating instead in the Presbyterian services at Magdalene Chapel, with the utmost regularity often going twice on Sundays. Religion was still a dangerous topic and it may be that he had recorded his views which, with hindsight, he considered too risky so that he ripped out the unsafe pages. Whatever the reason, the diary is missing the pages covering the period from 30<sup>th</sup> December 1687 to 20<sup>th</sup> July 1688.

Nor, for presumably the same reasons, does he mention the momentous political matters, culminating in the Revolution of 1688, beyond the bald statements: "The news came that the Prince of Orange was at sea"; and on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1688: "The Prince of Orange landed". But beyond this he gives no sign that a Revolution is happening about him – and there are no torn-out pages in late 1688. He did, though, find the time to read official and political publications of the day.

### **Golf and Archery**

Despite these omissions, he clearly had a lively, enquiring mind and recorded his thoughts on a bewildering variety of subjects. There is an almost daily entry beginning "I thought upon..." In the month of January 1687, alone, these thoughts ranged over medicine, fighting robbers, difference in 'humours', the theory of any art, the only way of playing at golf, throwing the stone, keeping an academy, voting in Parliament and the heads of Divinity. At a later date he "thought upon" shooting, how to fix wings to the body, billiards, a smith's vice, weaving cloth, breeding horses and building a house. Many of these thoughts are only mentioned once, but his favourite topics of golf, wooden legs, tying cravats, and music recur time and time again.

But despite his religious, medical and other serious reading, Thomas was very much a man of the world. He was fond of company and loved his sport. He was devoted to golf and archery. In the case of golf he has gone down in international history as the author of the first known directions on how to play the game. By "digesting them into verse" he has the distinction of being the game's first poet.

Archery, however, soon replaced golf as Thomas's main interest and remained so for the rest of his life. The diary provides a wealth of information about the Royal Company of Archers, founded in Edinburgh in 1676, at a time when its records are missing. Just as his golf clubs and balls kept him busy with maintenance and repair, so Thomas spent much time oiling and 'dighting' his bow and repairing it. He also:



“... thought upon the way of shooting at the butts ... as in these lines:-

Draw in your arrow ere you take your aim,  
Hold close your eye, and fixt your bow and arme.  
In aiming alter not your hands but move  
Your whole waist round; slow shooting best doth prove.”

He took part in many contests including the official contests at Leith, Craigentenny and Musselburgh. He once won a snuffbox, but never the Musselburgh Silver Arrow as did his friends David Drummond, who won in 1687, and Henry Legatt who won in 1688. But although this major prize eluded his grasp, he did win the Edinburgh Silver Arrow in 1711 and the Goose Prize in 1713. And his verses in Latin were attached to the Musselburgh Arrow celebrating the success of his friends.

These sports involved a great deal of tavern life. Archery was normally practised adjacent to a tavern so that the archers could adjourn to the bar at the end of the day. The chief drinks were ale, beer and wine, with sack for special occasions. Although he liked his snuff, he did not smoke. On one occasion he smoked a pipe and was “seek with it all forenoon”.

### **A Family Man of Substance**

But despite these interests, Thomas was a family man. We find repeated references to visits to his married sisters and to letters to his brother James who was in Holland with King William's army. He talked at length with his father and often read to him. He was fond of music and spent many hours playing the viol.

Both he and his father were wealthy men. The elder Thomas repeatedly subsidised his son in early life while he was studying, but after his father's death, the diarist appears to have been very well off. He does not seem to have done much surgery although he was admitted to the Royal College of Surgeons “in regard of good deeds done by him”, presumably one of these deeds being the presentation of 227 medical books to the College's library. At one time he acquired the lucrative office of ‘Principal Usher to Her Majesty’ which he was able to sell in 1706 for £18,645 with interest, an enormous sum in those days: even if this was expressed in pounds Scots, it was still over £1550 sterling. Although he was a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, he never seemed to exercise his privileges, being known to his contemporaries mainly as a Royal Archer and a writer of Latin verses.

In 1720 Thomas became a member of the Council of the Royal Company of Archers. His verses on the Royal Archers were printed in 1726 and in 1727 Freeman published another collection of Thomas's Latin verses, later



describing Thomas as “learned above the common lot” and “well versed in the humanities”.

Thomas died, unmarried, on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1726 and was buried in Greyfriars' Churchyard. He was an important son of an important father, and his Diary has ensured that he is known to posterity.

## THE ONLY WAY OF PLAYING AT GOLVE

From Thomas Kincaid's Diary

**20 January 1687.** After dinner I went out to the golfe with Henry Legatt. I found that the only way of playing at the golfe is –

1. To stand as you do at fencing with the small sword, bending your legs a little, and holding the muscles of your legs and back and arms exceeding bent or fixt or stiffe, and not at all slackning them in the time you are bringing down the stroke (which you readily do).
2. The ball must be straight before your breast, a little towards your left foot.
3. Your left foot must stand but a little before the right, or rather it must be even with it, and at a convenient distance from it.
4. Ye must lean most to the right foot.
5. But all the turning about of your body must be only upon your legs, holding them as stiff as ye can.
6. Then ye must incline your body a little forward from the small of the back and upwards; for seeing all the strength of the stroke is from the swing of the body in turning about, then certainly the further forward you incline your body or shoulders they must have the greater swing, and so consequently give the greater stroke; but you must not incline so far forward as that it make you stand the more unsteadfastly and waver a little in bringing down the stroke.
7. You must keep your body in this posture all the time both in bringing back the club and forward, that is, you must nither raise your body straighter in bringing back the club nor incline it further in bringing down the club; but ye must bring back the club by turning yourself about to the right hand, and that as it were upon a center, without moveing your body out of the place of it, but only in chainging the position of it in throwing it about or turning it about upon that center, so then ye must cast the weight of your body off the one leg on the other in the time you are bringing about the club: neither must you in the least turn down your left shoulder and up your right in bringing back the club, thinking therby to give the club a larger swinge and so increase its force or to raise the ball: for it is a verie unsettled motion that throw of the body whereby you turn down the left shoulder and up the right, so that therby you will verie often misse the ball and almost never hitt it exactly.
8. Your armes must move but verie little; all the motion must be performed with the turning of your body about. The armes serve only to guide the club and to



second and carie on that motion imprest upon it by turning of your body: therefore ye must never begin to bring about the club with the motion of the armes first, but their motion must be only towards the end of the stroke.

9. All the motion of the arms must be at the shoulder and all the motion of the legs must be at the upmost joint at the loins.
10. You must make no halt or rest, which is the slakning of the muscles of the back, between the bringing down of the club and the bringing it forward, but bring it about with that swiftness that the naturall swing of the club requires, holding it pretty fast in your hands. In every motion the muscles that concur to the performing at golfe keep bent and stayd, which in all motions of your armes you will be helped to do by contracting your fingers, and so if there be anything in your hand you must grip verie fast.
11. You must aim directly to hit the ball itselfe and not aim to scrum the ground or strike close to the ground, thinking that then you are sure to hitt it; for this is but an indirect way of hitting the ball, neither is it sure when the ball lies inconveniently; neither 3dly is it exact, for you will but seldome hitt the ball exactly and cleanly this way; and 4ly it is more difficult than the other way, whereas the other way is more easie. 2, sure, 3, better for hitting the ball exactly. The way to learn this is to tee your ball pretty high from the ground.
12. The shaft of your club must be of hazel. Your club must be almost straight, that is, the head must make a verie obtuse angle with the shaft, and it must bend as much at the handle as it doth at the wooping, being very supple and both long and great.
13. Your ball must be of a middle size nither too big nor too little, and then the heavier it is in respect of its bigness it is still the better. It must be of thick and hard leather not with pores and grains or that will lett a pin easily passe through it especially at the soft end.

**21 January 1687.** I found that the first point to be studied in playing at the golfe is to hitt the ball exactly; for if you hitt the ball exactly though the club have but little strength yet the ball will fly verie far. The way to attain this perfection is to play with little strength at first but yet accurately observing all the rules of posture and motion before set down, and then when ye have acquired a habit of hitting the ball exactly ye must learn to increase your strength or force in the stroke by degrees, staying still so long upon every degree till you have acquired a habit of it; neither will the knowledge of these degrees be altogether useless afterward, for they will serve for half chops and quarter chops and for holling the ball. But then in going through all these degrees of strength you must be verie attentive and carefull not to alter that posture of your body or way of moveing and bringing about the club which ye observed when ye playd with little strength: for the only reason why men miss the ball when they strike with more strength than ordinary is because their increasing their strength in the stroke makes them alter their ordinary

position of their body and ordinary way of bringing about the club; as also it makes them stand much more unsettledly and waver in bringing about the club, and so they readily miss the ball.

**26 January 1687.** I thought upon the playing at the golfe. I found:

1. That ye must rest most upon the right legg for the most part, but yet not too much so as to be exactly perpendicular upon it, which ye will know by the balancing of your body.
2. I found that the club must always move in a circle making an angle of 45 degrees with the horizon.
3. That the whole turning of your body about must be by throwing the joints of your right legg and then when [torn manuscript] . . . you must throw the small of your back so that the left shoulder will turn a little downwards, because the body is inclined a little forward, but ye must beware of raising the one shoulder higher than the other as to their position in the body, for that motion is not convenient for this action.
4. I found that in bringing down the club ye must turn your body as far about towards the left following the swing of the club as it had been turned before towards the right hand.
5. I found that seeing the swing of your body by the turning it upon your legg is the largest and strongest motion, therefore it must begin first and the turning at the small of the back must only second it, and then must follow the motion at the shoulders. The other motions must be but verie little and imperceptible, neither must these motions at the small of the back and shoulders begin till the club have hitt the ball, or, at least, be verie near it.

**9 February 1687.** I digested the rules of playing at the golfe into verse thus:

Gripe fast, stand with your left leg first not farr;  
 Incline your back and shoulders, but beware  
 You raise them not when back the club you bring;  
 Make all the motion with your bodies swinge  
 And shoulders, holding still the muscles bent;  
 Play slowly first till you the way have learnt.  
 At such lenth hold the club as fitts your strenth,  
 The lighter head requires the longer lenth.  
 That circle wherein moves your club and hands  
 At forty five degrees from the horizon stands.  
 What at on stroak to effectuat you dispaire  
 Seek only 'gainst the nixt it to prepare.



## A LATIN POEM BY THOMAS KINCAID ON THE ROYAL ARCHERS

Extracted from a book published in 1726 entitled “Poems in English and Latin, on the Archers and Royal Company of Archers, by several Hands.” The first poem in the book is a Latin one by Thomas Kincaid, elegantly written in Alcaics, that is in strophes of four lines each with four feet. It is thought to be a rendering of a poem in English from a collection of miscellaneous papers in the Advocates Library, written about the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Whether it was written by Thomas Kincaid is not known, but it seems unlikely.

In Regum Sagittariorum Scotorum Cohortem  
Scotos pharetris quis, sine gaudio  
Tam suscitatos, cerneret invidus  
Claros per orbem, Brittonique  
Limitibus positisque Romae?

Qui saepe dulcem sanguine patriam  
Per tot tuentes secula fortiter  
Intaminatos usque honores  
Progenie patriaeque servant

Nunc quot sodales jungit amabiles  
Non ulla lucri spes, neque gloriae  
Spectata sed virtus, fidesque, et  
Integritas studiumque recti?

Non illi amicos per mala deserunt  
Spretisque vulgi vocibus invidis  
Non de via justi recedunt  
Nec prece, nec pretio, minisve

Tali juveni si LEO FERVIDUS  
Caro repellens vim suo ab Albio  
Stipetur, hostiles catervas  
Lethiferis subiget sagittis.

Can any be with envy so possess  
Not to rejoice when now we see at last  
The SCOTTISH ARCHERS once again appear  
Whose Martial Deeds our Hist'rys all declare  
'Gainst *England*? Such of old were the Barrier  
Of *Roman* Conquests, SUCH stop'd the Career.

Such with their Lives, the Sov'rainty maintain'd  
Of SCOTLAND, and its honour kept unstain'd  
Thro' many ages: to their Progenie  
Deliv'ring down their Laws and Country free.

Behold, of Gen'rous Friends a Noble Train,  
Join'd not for vain Applause or hope of Gain:  
But whom tried Truth, approven Honesty,  
With a fix'd Purpose of Integrity, Firmly unite in  
the best Amity.

They'll ne'er their Prince or Friends in straits  
forsake,  
Nor by deceiving Fame, their Judgements make;  
Always pursuing what is Just and Great,  
Nor Fears nor Hopes can move them to retreat;

For IN DEFENCE of ALBION's Liberty  
The Rampant Lyon shall be raised on high,  
Guarded with armies of such Gallant Youth,  
Whose Breasts are arm'd with Courage  
and with Truth.  
Our foes shall fly, or soon resign their Breath, Such  
Archers' Arrows will give certain Death.









## CHAPTER FIVE

# FALKIRK AND LINLITHGOW

The lands of Kincaid lie at the base of the Campsie Fells, which rise more than 1500 feet above the low-lying agricultural land that abounds in the narrow waist of Scotland that runs from the River Clyde at Glasgow to the Firth of Forth only some 30 miles further east. High up in these Fells, above the Campsie churchyard and between the high peaks of Meikle Bin and Holehead, is the source of the River Carron, lying almost within sight of Kincaid House itself.

The infant river, disdaining the company of neighbouring burns which hurry south past Campsie church to join the Kelvin and Clyde, shows its independence by flowing north-east to bubble between the Kilsyth Hills to the south and the Fintry Hills to the north. Its direction then becomes easterly as if it suddenly scents the shortest way to the sea. Plunging down from the heights through Glen Carron, the burn hastens past Dunipace, whose laird was the father of the ill-starred Jean Livingstone, beheaded for the murder of John Kincaid of Warriston in 1600. It then meets the Bonny Water which, further west, connects at Over Mungwall with that southern boundary of Kincaid and Auchinreoch, the River Kelvin.

The Carron, now recognisably a river rather than a mountain stream, passes north of Falkirk, past the kirk of Bothkennar, to its estuary where it empties itself into the Forth at Grangemouth, once an open expanse of coastal land, but now an industrial town with extensive docks and freight handling facilities, and a major oil terminal. To the south of the river estuary, in the middle of what is now Grangemouth, stood the lands and mansion of Abbot's Grange (or Abbotsgrange) on a spot that was a little higher than the surrounding mud or sand flats. Although the site is now a council park and playing fields, the Grange is still marked by a small stone monument. To the north of Abbotsgrange lay Huck, and to the east of it lay the lands of Saltcoats which, together with Huck formed a strand of Kincaid property along the coast of the Forth.



The river Carron has changed course at least four times in its history and used to meander somewhat more than now. Either side of its estuary, the coastline too appears to have changed shape since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, much of the Huck and Saltcoats flatlands having been eaten away or dredged. But the major change has been the building of the huge BP petroleum site which now covers most of the shoreline where the lands and houses of Huck, Wester Saltcoats, Oswald Saltcoats and Easter Saltcoats were to be found three centuries ago. The whole area including Abbotsgrange, the Saltcoats estate and, possibly, Huck had belonged to the Abbey of Holyrood.

Two miles east from the Carron estuary another river flows into the Firth of Forth: the River Avon rises south of Falkirk and flows east to Avonbridge before turning north towards Linlithgow, forming what was probably the eastern boundary of the Carriber lands held by the Kincaids for a time around the end of the 16th century.

The Avon skirts Linlithgow, where John Kincaid was sheriff and keeper of the Royal Palace in 1461, and flows not far from his estates at Kincavil, Hiltlie and Polbeth, before turning back on itself to flow into the Forth only a short distance from the estuary of the Carron. The whole area is rich in Kincaid history.

Thus the geography, but the Kincaids of these places are more difficult to pinpoint.



Linlithgow Palace today



Map of the Linlithgow Area c.1600  
 By kind permission of the Carson Clark Gallery, Edinburgh

### Kincaids in Linlithgow

The manor house at Linlithgow had been a favourite residence of King Robert II. In 1388 he held a parliament there and in 1389 granted the burgh its earliest surviving charter. However in 1411, and again in 1424, the town, church and manor house were destroyed by disastrous fires.<sup>147</sup> King James I set in hand a rebuilding programme from 1425 and the new Palace, although not finished, was habitable by 1428. But little use was made of the new Palace until James III came to the throne in 1460 and, from early in his reign, used it as a royal residence. That it was one of the finest palaces in Europe is not in doubt. Mary of Guise, a widowed French duchess and wife of King James V, had lived among the finest houses in France, and in 1540 she was delighted,

<sup>147</sup> *Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland*, edited Francis Groome, William Mackenzie, London, volume IV, page 515.



“... with the beauties and luxuries of Linlithgow Palace ... and said she had never seen a more princely palace.”<sup>148</sup>

Although some references show Nicholas Henryson as the keeper of the Palace of Linlithgow from 1458 to 1466, John de Kincade was the keeper in 1461.<sup>149</sup> Palace receipts show that the keeper had a yearly salary of two pounds and that the lands of, inter alia, Kincavill and Bonnytoun were royal possessions at that time;<sup>150</sup> and from the same source we know that Boneside was also in the King's hands. In fact a great deal of the land surrounding Linlithgow was in the gift of the king.

In 1469, there was:

“A grant by the King to John de Kincade and his heirs of the lands of Boneside, one third of the lands of Hiltcliff, half of the acre of land on the eastern side of the Hospital of St. Mary Magdalene, commonly called ‘le Hedriggis’, and half of the acre of land between the Castle of Blacknes on the one side and the royal palace of Linlithgow on the other, in the sheriffdom of Linlithgow, which Thomas of Walterstoune at Linlithgow personally resigned.”<sup>151</sup>

This John seems to have acquired more land at Kincavil, and at Powbeth.<sup>152</sup> John had at least four children and was joint tenant with his eldest son Thomas in Kincavil in 1480.<sup>153</sup> In 1488, on the death of John, Thomas became joint tenant with his mother Margaret Stirling.<sup>154</sup>

Thomas's brothers James, Arthur, Patrick and Adam were all listed as tenants in Kincavil in 1498.<sup>155</sup>

The estate of Kincavil returned to the King with the death of John's son, Thomas, in 1488, when:

<sup>148</sup>*Ordnance Gazeteer of Scotland*, edited Francis Groome, William Mackenzie, London, volume IV, page 516 and 518.

<sup>149</sup>*The Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, edited George Burnett, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1884, volume VII, pages 47-49.

<sup>150</sup>*Linlithgow Palace*, Rev John Ferguson, Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh, 1910, page 264. The author quotes the Exchequer Rolls of Scotland, volume VI, pages 440-441.

<sup>151</sup>*Register of the Great Seal of Scotland 1424-1513*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1882, volume II, folio 983.

<sup>152</sup>*Earl of Wigton Charters*, volume III, folio 4294.

<sup>153</sup>*Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, edited George Burnett, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1884, volume IX, page 640.

<sup>154</sup>*Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, edited George Burnett, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1884, volume X, page 719.

<sup>155</sup>*Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, edited George Burnett, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1884, volume X, page 719.

“George Parkle was appointed captain, keeper and governor of the Palace of Linlithgow . . . For this office he had the ten pound lands of Kincavil.”<sup>156</sup>

In 1498, Sir Patrick Hamilton was appointed by King James IV to be sheriff and captain of the Castle of Blackness (only four miles from Linlithgow) and at the same time was granted the King's lands at Kincavil.<sup>157</sup> It seems therefore that Kincavil was granted to those holding high offices at the palace or the castle. Although we cannot be certain, these grants of Kincavil and other royal lands by the King to John Kincade strongly suggest that this John was indeed the one-time keeper of the Royal Palace at Linlithgow.

Given that owners of forty shilling (two pound) lands were entitled to sit in Parliament, the ten pound lands of Kincavil must have been extensive. How spacious the other Kincaid lands were is not at all clear but, as Boneside, Hiltlie and Kincavil all lie within two miles of each other, the combined properties might well have covered much of the land south and east of Linlithgow. Nor is it clear how many Kincaids were living here, but it seems as if it was only one small family. Then from 1548, after three (or possibly four) generations, the records of Kincaids abruptly cease. It may have been that the family lost influence in the shifting sands of royal succession during the turbulent years of the Reformation and the battles between English and French forces in Scotland; or it may be that the family died out for lack of heirs. Whatever the reason, there seems to have been no Kincaid in the Linlithgow area for the next half century.

And then in 1600, Henry Kincaid of Auchinreoch succeeded to some land at Carriber,<sup>158</sup> lying on the River Avon, south of the town. This may well have been a dowry from the marriage of his eldest son John to Helen Carriber<sup>159</sup> in that year. Other land at Over Mungwall may also have been included. Helen died in about 1626<sup>160</sup> and John almost immediately married Isobel Forsyth.<sup>161</sup> But within a year, John was dead. What happened to the Carriber land is not recorded, but it may well have returned whence it came.

Eleven Kincaid births were recorded in Linlithgow parish in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, nine in the 18<sup>th</sup> and eight in the 19<sup>th</sup>, while ten marriages were recorded between 1707 and 1805. This suggests one relatively small Kincaid family was resident there over those years, but it is impossible to connect those Kincaids to John de Kincade, the keeper of the Palace in 1461.

<sup>156</sup> *Linlithgow Palace*, James Ferguson, page 49.

<sup>157</sup> *Linlithgow*, George Waldie, page 53.

<sup>158</sup> *Index to Register of Edinburgh Sasines 1599-1609*.

<sup>159</sup> *Index to Register of Edinburgh Sasines 1599-1609*.

<sup>160</sup> *Edinburgh Testaments*.

<sup>161</sup> *Commissariat of Glasgow 1547-1800*





Map of the Falkirk area c.1600

By kind permission of the Carson Clark Gallery, Edinburgh

### Kincaids in Falkirk

We first hear of Kincaids in the Falkirk area in 1480 when David Kincaid, with his brother Patrick, is mentioned as a tenant of the Grange at Bothkennar,<sup>162</sup> a building just across the estuary of the River Carron from Huck. David still occupied the Grange in 1523.<sup>163</sup> In 1561 we hear that the lands of Abbotsgrange were occupied by David Kincaid and Thomas Livingstone. Although there is no clear evidence, it is possible that this David

<sup>162</sup> *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, edited George Burnett, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1884, volume IX, page 633.

<sup>163</sup> *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, edited George Burnett, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1884, volume XV, page 557.



was the son of the Bothkennar David and his lands may have included the sites of Huck and Saltcoats.

David would have been a near neighbour of William Graham of Baircrofts, brother of John, Earl of Monteith. He was probably also a close kinsman of his, as William Graham's wife was Helen Kincaid, possibly a sister of David Kincaid, although there is nothing to confirm this. Helen is mentioned as William's wife in 1561 and 1563. She and William lived at Baircrofts, a property lying on the coast of the Forth just to the east of Abbotsgrange.<sup>164</sup>

The younger David married Elizabeth Livingstone and had seven children, the eldest, John, marrying first Grisell Salmond<sup>165</sup> and, on her death in about 1600, Elizabeth Byrne.<sup>166</sup>

John Kincaid is mentioned in 1595 as "of Little Saltcoats",<sup>167</sup> in 1613 as "in the west grange of Bothkennar"<sup>168</sup> and in 1622 as "son of James Kincaid elder in Abbotsgrange".<sup>169</sup> This John may well have been the grandson of the younger David and his lands may have eventually stretched along the coast from the Pow Burn to the Avon.

James Kincaid in Abbotsgrange appears to have been a hot-blooded fellow, for he appeared before the Falkirk and Callendar Regality Court in 1643 when he was fined £5 for throwing a pail or tankard at George Williamson, but Williamson seems to have been the guilty party for he was fined £50 for "blooding" James Kincaid. Appearing again, James was fined a further £50 when he confessed that he had "bled" John Hunter. In 1648 he appeared yet again before the court:

"Concerning the bloode and trublance committit Betwixt James Kincaid in Abbotsgrange and Alexander Watt his son in Law; both the said parties appeared before the court and confest trublance and of stryking at others but denyit the blooding of the uther and thairfor referrit themselves to an assyse ... having taken notice concerning Alexr Watt in the blooding of the said James Kincaid as also the said James Kincaid in stryking of the said Alexr Watt with a staff ... the court unlaues the said Alexr Watt in fifty pound for the blood and the said James Kincaid in ten pounds for the said trublance ..."<sup>170</sup>

<sup>164</sup>*Protocol Book of Nicol Thounis 1559-1564*, edited James Beveridge and James Russell, Scottish Record Society, Edinburgh, 1920, numbers 109, 415, 476, pages 23, 84, 95-96.

<sup>165</sup>*Edinburgh Testaments*.

<sup>166</sup>*Edinburgh Testaments*.

<sup>167</sup>*Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, volume V, page 662.

<sup>168</sup>*Commissariat of Stirling 1613-1779*.

<sup>169</sup>*Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, volume XIII, page 746.

<sup>170</sup>*The Falkirk and Callendar Regality Court Book*, the Stair Society, Edinburgh, volume I, page 177.





The Old Parish Church, Falkirk

It was James's daughter Elspeth who was married to Alexander Watt, and she and her son John Watt were also before the court in the same year for owing the sum of £29 10s for four bolls (approximately eight gallons) of malt. They were given fifteen days to pay, under pain of a £40 fine. In 1646 Marion Watt, widow of John Kincaid, was banished from the parish of Falkirk and, if found therein, was to be branded on the cheek, unless she made her repentance for committing fornication.<sup>171</sup>

Huck is first mentioned in 1663. It may be that until this date the Kincaids were tenants in this area, but now became owners; for in 1663 John Kincaid

<sup>171</sup>*The Falkirk and Callendar Regality Court Book*, the Stair Society, Edinburgh, volume I, pages 108 and 215.

is designated “of Huck”<sup>172</sup> while his antecedents were known as “... Kincaid in Abbotsgrange” or as “... Kincaid in the west grange of Bothkennar”. John of Huck could have been the grandson of David Kincaid in Abbotsgrange, but there is no clear evidence for this.

John Kincaid of Huck had three sons. The eldest, Archibald, inherited Huck and rented the lands of Oswald Saltcoats, but in 1705 sold:

“... those parts and portions of Huck ... called the ‘Priestaikers’, having the lands of Condie on the south and northwest and the lands of Forrester Saltcoats on the east and northeast, within the parish and regality of Falkirk and shire of Stirling.”<sup>173</sup>

And on the same day he rented out half the lands of Huck:

“... namely, Long Newlands, the lands called Monteathe’s mailing [i.e. rented land], the 22 rigs lying east of the east end of the lands called Barkslee to the loanside north from James Lorne’s stackyard, the 18 rigs on the north side of the said barnyard, the lands called Tonbalfauld, the 11 rigs south of the lands called horsefauld, the lands on the east side of the wester greens, the east end of the lands called the Leefaulds, the 13 rigs east and the 4 rigs west of the lands called Easter Greens with the half of the common loanings and powsides, lying within the sea dykes; and which salt grass and lands and common loanings and powside is declared to remain in commonty betwixt Archibald Kincaid and William Gibb.”<sup>174</sup>

Archibald’s son James, in Dalgreen, predeceased him, and although James left nine young children (six sons and three daughters), Archibald’s lands appeared to pass, not to one of them, but to their grandfather’s brother, John.

We hear no more of Huck, so it may be that John parted with the rest of the lands of the estate, perhaps when he inherited Saltcoats in 1718. Times were getting harder for many landowners. John’s younger brother, Alexander, was a goldsmith.

Archibald Kincaid of Saltcoats, who died in 1710, had only one son, James, who predeceased him. James was always described as “tenant in Dalgreen”. The eldest of his nine children, James, remained in Dalgreen and acquired Wisterton, Kirktown (near Bothkennar) and Dow Craig, a small rocky islet in the Firth of Forth. He was a man of means and may have been a great supporter of the Jacobites, and his eldest son, James Kincaid of Dalgreen, in 1746, was blacklisted by the government in the following words:

<sup>172</sup>*Index to Register of Deeds*, 1663.

<sup>173</sup>*Particular Register of Sasines Stirling*, volume XII, folio 66.

<sup>174</sup>*Particular Register of Sasines Stirling*, volume XII, folio 67.



“James Kincaid of Dalgreen was very active in assisting the Rebels day and night, robbed the country of horses, drank the Pretender’s son as Prince of Wales wishing damnation to His Majesty King George II.”<sup>175</sup>

The ‘45’ was the last throw of the Jacobite dice. Although it was claimed in 1715 that five out of six people supported the Jacobites, this was surely a wild exaggeration by enthusiastic supporters. Nevertheless, the Hanoverian monarchy was hardly popular. In Scotland, there was much disenchantment after the Act of Union in 1707 had merged England and Scotland into a single country, an Act which had traded the Scottish Parliament for 45 members in the 513-strong House of Commons and 16 peers in the House of Lords. Much of the Highlands, hostile to the Presbyterian Lowlands, was Jacobite in sympathy. Many rural Lowlanders probably had Jacobite sympathies, yet the towns and cities were staunchly Hanoverian, seeing the Jacobite uprisings known as the ‘15’ and the ‘45’ as irresponsible gambles with future prosperity.

It has been asserted<sup>176</sup> that the Kincaids as a family were Jacobites, but this is probably not true. It is much more likely that most Kincaids accepted the future, if not with enthusiasm, then at least with hard-headed logic, as did the majority of Lowlanders. There were, of course, those with Jacobite sympathies like James Kincaid in Dalgreen, and the John Kinkaid who appears to have been the only member of the family to have fought at Culloden and who had signed an oath of allegiance to the Old Pretender:

“I solemnly swear and promise in the presence of Almighty God that I will faithfully and diligently serve James the Eighth, King of Scotland, England, France and Ireland against all his enemies foreign or domestick. And shall not desert or leave his service without leave asked and given of any officer. And hereby pass from all former allegiance given by me to George, Elector of Hanover. So help me God.”<sup>177</sup>

Another who seems to have fled the country after the ‘45’ was Alexander Kincaid from the Falkirk area. He may have been the son of James Kincaid and Isobell Russall, although this is not at all certain. What is certain is that he arrived in the Dutch town of Dordrecht on 12<sup>th</sup> September 1746, married Johanna Vogels in the protestant Nieuwe Kerk just ten weeks later, and was soon a skipper on the River Meuse. He seems to have been a fast worker. From this Alexander are descended all the Kinkets in Holland.

<sup>175</sup> *A List of Persons Concerned in the Rebellion (1745)*, Scottish History Society, Volume VIII, page 56.

<sup>176</sup> *The Scottish Clan and Family Encyclopaedia*, George Way of Plean, Harper Collins, Glasgow 1998.

<sup>177</sup> Entry by Heather Kincaid of Kincaid in the Kincaid of Kincaid card index, quoting the Muster Roll at Culloden given in the Fraser papers.



Despite initial successes, both the '15' and '45' uprisings were defeated and, at Culloden Moor in 1745, 'Butcher' Cumberland finally destroyed the Jacobite cause with much blood and great brutality. Bonnie Prince Charlie's main supporters were executed, the kilt and bagpipes banned, the clans disarmed and great roads driven deep into the Highlands. The British Army formed Highland regiments; henceforth, the martial ardour of the clans was channelled into serving the country against the King's enemies abroad, which they have done with distinction ever since.

Culloden and its aftermath destroyed the power of the Highlanders, but it was the clan chiefs who destroyed their people when, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, they forcibly evicted their clansmen from their dwellings to make money from sheep. The Highland Clearances swelled the tide of emigration to the New World.

After the final defeat of the Jacobites, James Kincaid of Dalgreen may have found the country too hot to hold him; he may have considered emigration to the United States to join other family members there. His aunt Katherine, who had married John Wyse, may have been one who emigrated as we hear later of John Wyse of Virginia who was apparently connected with the Kincaids. But it seems that James did not leave the country, at least for long, as he appears to have fathered a remarkable tribe of Kincaids in Falkirk, whose story will be told in Chapter Eight.

### **Alexander Kincaid, Lord Provost**

Kincaids in Grange are clearly closely related to the Kincaids of Huck and Saltcoats, but the actual relationship is hard to determine. John Kincaid, tenant in Grange, died in 1722.<sup>178</sup> He had at least two sons; the elder, John, remained in Grange, as did his descendants until at least 1789, but Alexander moved to Edinburgh where he set up as a writer. He had at least one son, Alexander, who became a major figure in Edinburgh during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He became a writer like his father, married Lady Caroline Kerr, daughter of Lord Charles Kerr, and then set up as a bookseller, and finally as a printer. In 1749, he received appointments from King George II as His Majesty's sole and only master printer in Scotland, and also His Majesty's Printer and Stationer, for the next 41 years.<sup>179</sup> In 1757 he enlarged his premises by purchasing a large part of the Campbell's brewery and then acquired the Tailor's Hall, obtaining permission "for striking out windows on the south wall of the Hall". Whether he would have gained permission today to alter the Hall is unlikely for it is architecturally important:

<sup>178</sup>*Commisariat of Stirling, 1613-1779.*

<sup>179</sup>Entry in the Kincaid of Kincaid card index.



“Apart from St Giles Church and the Magdalen Chapel, the Tailors’ Hall is the most important building now surviving in Edinburgh.”<sup>180</sup>

In 1757, his rent for the Hall and its garden was £30.<sup>181</sup>

He lived in a house in a small court west of Horse Wynd, just off the Cowgate, one of the two principle roads in Old Edinburgh, running parallel to the Lawnmarket and the Cannongate which formed the Royal Mile from the Castle to Holyrood via the Cathedral. As late as 1877 the Horse Wynd was known as “Kincaid’s Land”.<sup>182</sup>

Besides becoming the leading printer in Scotland, Alexander gave much of his time and effort as a member of the Town Council. As early as 1737, when he was only 26, he was elected a councillor. Ten years later he became Third Bailie. In 1746 and 1748 he was Old Bailie and in 1750 he was First Bailie.<sup>183</sup> Then in 1776:

“Both parties in the council united in the choice of Alexander Kincaid, Esq, as the Chief Magistrate (or Lord Provost). In the evening some of his Lordship’s friends having expressed their joy by a bonfire and illuminations, a riot was the consequence, and much damage done by breaking windows and other mischief.”<sup>184</sup>

On his election as Lord Provost, he matriculated his arms. These are suitably differenced from the Kincaid of Kincaid arms, showing a chevron argent with three gold stars instead of a fesse ermine. The Kincaid mullets in chief are changed to spur rowels, but Edinburgh Castle remains in base and the crest of a hand holding a broadsword and the motto “I will defend” is unchanged.<sup>185</sup> Alexander died in 1777 while still in office and he was interred with great pomp.

“His funeral was attended by the Duke of Buccleuch, the Marquess of Lothian (Alexander’s brother in law) and the Earl of Home; in the procession walked the Macer of the Lyon Court, in deep mourning and bare-headed, four heralds, four pursuivants and a man carrying his lordship’s rod of office, which the senior herald broke and dropped the pieces in the coffin saying, ‘Thus it hath pleased Almighty God to remove from this life to a better one our worthy Chief Magistrate, the Right Honourable Alexander Kincaid, Lord Provost of this City, representative of the family of Bantaskine.’”<sup>186</sup>

<sup>180</sup> *An Edinburgh Alphabet*, J.F.Birrell, James Thin, Edinburgh 1980.

<sup>181</sup> *History of the Old Edinburgh Club*, T&A Constable, Edinburgh, volume XI, pages 138-143.

<sup>182</sup> *Kay’s Original Portraits*, volume II, pages 29 and 236.

<sup>183</sup> *The Lord Provosts of Edinburgh*, page 77.

<sup>184</sup> *Kay’s Original Portraits*, volume II, page 236.

<sup>185</sup> *Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland*, volume 1, folio 345.

<sup>186</sup> *Scottish Arms*, R.R.Stoddart, William Patterson, Edinburgh, 1881.

Alexander lived through a turbulent period of Scottish history. Four years before he was born, the Act of Union was passed which gave rise to nearly 40 years of resistance to the House of Hanover. This period came to an end with the irresponsible and romantic '45'. By this time the towns and cities had accepted Hanoverian rule, but Alexander must have witnessed Bonnie Prince Charlie's triumphant progress to Edinburgh and Holyrood and his subsequent success on the battlefield of Prestonpans. He must have seen the Prince's undignified retreat through the Lowlands the following winter. He probably rejoiced at the news of Culloden and may have approved Butcher Cumberland's ruthless Highland policy. His wife was probably not alarmed by the ridiculous Jacobite hunting in Edinburgh when Albemarle's soldiers were ordered to apprehend any woman or girl, of gentility or commonality, who was wearing a tartan gown, stockings, sash or cape, or who wore white ribbons in her hair or at her breast. The Kincaids were probably not molested as they were staunch Presbyterians. It may be significant that Alexander's quick rise in the Town Council immediately followed the final collapse of Jacobism in Scotland.

When Alexander died in 1777, his estate descended to his only son, Alexander. He was a great 'Macaroni', as a dandy was then called: his nickname was "Young Bibles" as he was "bound in calf and guilt but not lettered".<sup>187</sup> The young Alexander succeeded to his father's title of "His Majesty's Printer and Stationer for Scotland" and printed, inter alia, maps, plans and histories of Edinburgh. His *History of Edinburgh* was printed in 1787, and he brought out an abridged version of this in 1794 entitled *The Traveller's Companion Through the City of Edinburgh*. Among his maps and plans, the most important seems to have been *A Plan of the City and Suburbs of Edinburgh*, published in 1784. Made from actual surveys, it was:

"... of large size and scale, and is especially valuable for the delineation of the southern districts."<sup>188</sup>

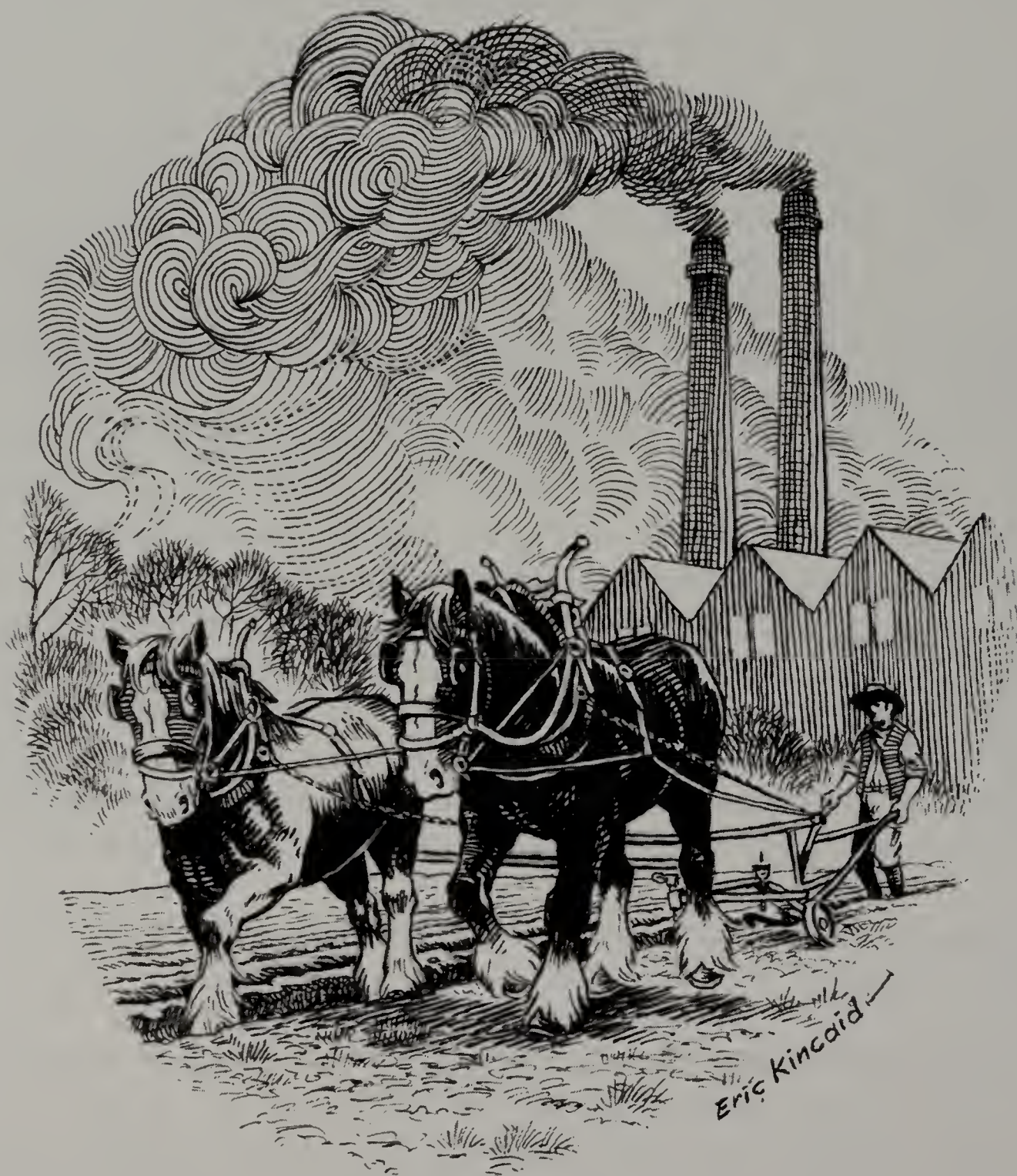
It was dedicated to John Grieve, Lord Provost, and signed by Alexander Kincaid; the Town Council ordered 50 copies.

He never married and died relatively young. He left his estate of Whitehouse in Edinburgh to his cousins, Charles and Mark Kerr, but the Trustees found that his printing press was bequeathed to Jane, Marchioness of Lothian, who had predeceased Alexander. After some hard work, the Trustees pronounced his second cousin John Kincaid in Grange as his heir.

<sup>187</sup>*Traditions of Edinburgh*, Chambers, page 277.

<sup>188</sup>*History of the Old Edinburgh Club*, T&A Constable, Edinburgh, 1923, volume XII, page 211.





Eric Kincaid

# CHAPTER SIX

## KINCAIDS OF KINCAID

### 1615-1797

*Associated Genealogical Table Number 5 is at page 273.*

At the end of Chapter Three we left the Kincaids of Kincaid at the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, and we must now return to them.

#### **A Progression of James Kincaids of that Ilk**

In approximately 1615 Sir James Kincaid of Kincaid died<sup>189</sup> leaving his widow, Dame Margaret Hamilton, alive for at least another ten years, her widowhood marred by an internal family feud with her brothers-in-law and their uncle.<sup>190</sup> There is little record of the next 30 years, and the long succession of James Kincaids of that Ilk makes it more difficult to separate one laird from the next.

Sir James's eldest son, another James, inherited. It is not clear whether it was this James who married Jean Somerville in about 1643, and died in about 1663. Although there is no clear evidence that there was another James Kincaid of that Ilk between Sir James (Margaret Hamilton) and James (Jean Somerville), there are two possible reasons for believing that there might have been. The first is that without another generation the last named would have been over 40 when he married; not impossible, but unlikely. The other reason is that, on the gravestone that seals the family vault in Campsie churchyard, there is a coat of arms of a Kincaid impaled with his wife's. The initials at either side are J.K. (presumably for James Kincaid as there is

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<sup>189</sup>*Peareth Ledgers*, volume II, page 76, which states that he was dead by 1618, and *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, volume X, page 410, which suggests he was still alive in 1615.

<sup>190</sup>*Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, volume III, page 337.



no record of a John Kincaid of Kincaid around that time) and at top and bottom S.D. Underneath is the date 1645. However, this might equally apply to Margaret Hamilton, for under the date are the initials M.H. – the initials could be divided up into S.I.K. (for Sir James Kincaid) and D.M.H. (for Dame Margaret Hamilton). But then the date 1645 becomes a mystery, unless it was the date that Margaret Hamilton died, which is possible. However, another James Kincaid of that ilk, dying in 1645, would at least make the generational gaps more consistent.

One of these James Kincaids of Kincaid accompanied the Scottish army into England to join the Parliamentarians against King Charles I in the Civil War.

“In the later months of 1643 measures were taken in Scotland to raise an army to cooperate with the English parliament in the suppression of the Royalists and, it was fondly hoped, in the establishment of presbytery south of the Tweed. With this view the several local war committees were required to furnish their respective contingents, and in the end of December 1643 or beginning of January 1644, 21,000 men under the command of the Earl of Leven entered England to seek for conformity of religion among the horrors of civic warfare.

In obedience to the call upon them, the town council of Glasgow on 22 December 1643 appealed to the inhabitants to enrol themselves in the expedition, certifying that from those who responded to the call the requisite officers would be chosen ... Captain George Porterfield was again appointed to command the town's company, but he and they were ordered to be subject in all things to the magistrates so long as they remained in town ...

The following payments were also authorised to be made: on 10<sup>th</sup> February £160 for eighteen additional muskets bought in Edinburgh for the town; on the 24<sup>th</sup> £40 for the horse on which James Kincaid rode with the soldiers to England ... on the 30<sup>th</sup> £20-13-4d to James Kincaid for his charges in going with the soldiers in February ...”<sup>191</sup>

James and Jean Somerville had five or six sons, the eldest being, now traditionally, another James. His marriage contract to Marion Boyd is dated 1674, but was not recorded until more than seven years later:

“Marriage contract made at Kilmarnock on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1674, and recorded on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1682, between James Kincaid of that ilk, and Marion Boyd, second lawful daughter of Mr. John Boyd of Trochrig. Under this contract, James Kincaid binds himself, his heirs etc. to infest Marion Boyd, his future wife, in the sum of four hundred pounds of Scots money, to be uplifted etc., from all and hail the five pound lands of Mekle and Little Kincaid, and Kinkell, the houses, biggings etc., appertaining to these lands, lying in the

<sup>191</sup>*Charters and Documents Relating to Glasgow*, volume I (1175-1649), page 442.

parish of Campsie and sheriffdom of Stirling, for all the days of her lifetime and after the decease of the said James Kincaid.”<sup>192</sup>

The gap between the drawing up of the marriage contract and the recording of it was apparently quite normal. They were probably children, certainly minors, at the time of the contract, but the contract would not have been registered until they were married.<sup>193</sup>

### Church and the Test

James would still have been quite young, probably in his early twenties, when he was called upon to sign the Test.

“Minutes of Council at Glasgow the 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 1684. Sederunt. His Grace the Duke of Hamilton: the Lord Lundie, Sec. Of State: the Lord Justice Clerk. Amongst those who had signed the bond but refused the Test were James Kincaid of that Ilk and James Kincaid friar of Auchinreoch.”<sup>194</sup>

In the margin it states that James Kincaid of that Ilk had since taken the Test. The Test Act had been enacted in 1673 in an anti-popish frenzy and under it no man could hold office unless he would solemnly declare his disbelief in key aspects of Roman Catholic doctrine. Although in England, the Test Act was often quietly ignored, the penalty in Scotland for refusing the Test could be extreme: the Earl of Argyll, who refused it entirely in 1681, was tried for treason and condemned to death. The Earl, however, escaped to Holland.

Religion was at the heart of everyday life in 17<sup>th</sup>-century Scotland, much more so than in England, and the strict hold that the kirk and its ministers had on the members of their congregation at that time is well illustrated by one of the few Kincaid stories to have survived. On 3<sup>rd</sup> September and again on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1696, James Kincaid of Kincaid and his servants were called to appear before the kirk session. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, James appeared and acknowledged that he had given orders for some threshing to take place on a sabbath. He was appointed to appear before the congregation on the following sabbath and receive a public rebuke:

“His servants having neglected to provide straw for his horses, [the Laird of Kincaid] seems to have sent them out either to the field or to the stackyard for a few sheaves of bear [coarse barley], which he caused them to thresh on the Sabbath Day. His punishment was standing on the stool of repentance, and

<sup>192</sup>*Register of Deeds*, volume 52, folio 47.

<sup>193</sup>Based on a report by Major Maitland-Titterton to Olivia Brisbin, 1969.

<sup>194</sup>*Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, series 3, volume X, folio 269.



receiving a solemn rebuke in public, because, according to one version, on his arriving home on Sunday morning from a journey and finding no feed for his wearied horse, he sent the groom out to the next field, to cut and bring it in to him, which, by his master’s orders, the groom threshed on the spot, as it was entirely owing to his own negligence.”<sup>195</sup>

James died in 1703, the last of six (or seven or even eight) successive James Kincaids of Kincaid, but he had broken this tradition by naming his eldest son John. It was this Laird who fell foul of the kirk in 1704 when he:

“ ... appeared before the congregation and was rebuked for the first time. At interview with elders professing his grief for his sin [breach of the Seventh Commandment], he was appointed to appear before the congregation to be rebuked for the second time and absolved. Reported appeared, 19<sup>th</sup> November 1704.”<sup>196</sup>

**Farming and Debts**

About this time, the parish of Campsie was largely owned by eight landed proprietors:

“This parish contains 108 ploughgates of land (about 10,000 acres), 73 of which are possessed by eight great proprietors; the other 28 ploughs are possessed by 37 feuars or portioners, holding charter and seisin; the valuation of the whole parish being £6429. £4900 is possessed by the eight great proprietors, in the following proportions:

William Lennox of Woodhead	£922
John Lennox of Antermony	£888
Sir John Stirling of Glorat	£800
Sir Archibald Edmiston of Duntreath	£686
John MacFarlane of Kirkton	£537
John Buchanan of Carbeth	£403
John Kincaid of Kincaid	£417
John Stirling of Craigharnet	£300” <sup>197</sup>

In 1708 John married Agnes Nisbett. He appears to have run up considerable debts, for when he died in 1737 his eldest son, another James, was not served heir to his father until 1751.

<sup>195</sup>*The Parish of Campsie*, John Cameron, J.R.Publications, Kirkintilloch 1892, page 237.  
<sup>196</sup>*The Parish of Campsie*, John Cameron, J.R.Publications, Kirkintilloch 1892, page 242.  
<sup>197</sup>*Statistical Account of Scotland*, John Sinclair, 1745, volume 15, page 336.



John Kincaid of Kincaid (d.1797) and (above) with members of his family.  
*Clockwise from top: George, Mary, Elizabeth Dainzell, John Kincaid of Kincaid, Caroline, James.*



“Perhaps he was not willing to assume the debts left by his father, John Kincaid of that Ilk, who was the one who borrowed large sums of money secured on the lands of Kincaid. He did not repay everything during his lifetime and I have no references showing that his son [and heir] James paid anything in settlement of these debts during his lifetime. But John, who succeeded his brother James, paid all the debts and declared himself Superior of the lands shortly before his death in 1797.”<sup>198</sup>

On the relatively early death of James in 1753, his younger brother John inherited because, it appears, James had never married: his testament was given up by his sister Agnes Kincaid, spouse of Robert Landels of Robroyston, and they were named executors in March 1753.<sup>199</sup> John, as was common with younger sons, had been apprenticed in 1728 to a relation, the Edinburgh goldsmith Alexander Kincaid, son of John Kincaid of Huck but it is not known if the future Laird of Kincaid ever practised as a goldsmith. Three years after inheriting Kincaid he married Elizabeth Dainzell, and they had nine children.

### The Oswald Schools

One of John's daughters married a Mr Oswald, writer and clerk to the Woodhead Baron-Bailie court in 1775, and they had two daughters. After her husband's death, Mrs Oswald and her daughters lived at Viewfield Cottage above Kincaid House. After the death of her mother and sister, the remaining daughter left all her estate to help build schools in Campsie and Kirkintilloch, and these were named the Oswald Schools after their benefactor.

“Kirkintilloch, 4<sup>th</sup> April 1853. The members of the Kirk Session, considering that it was ascertained when the last census was taken out that out of 2098 children in the parish between four and twelve years of age, not more than 860 were attending the schools in the parish, many of the poor weavers declaring that they could not pay for the education of their children, resolved to erect by subscriptions a school with the view of educating as many as possible of the children of poor tradesmen and labourers at the lowest fees ...

The Rev. George Little, minister of the parish ... was able to report by September of the following year that after much correspondence the plans and draft disposition of the site had been approved by the Department. The total cost of the buildings was £1786; and the subscriptions amounted to £1467,

<sup>198</sup>Letter from Olivia Brisbin to the author, 28 June 1967.

<sup>199</sup>*Hamilton and Campsie Testaments*, 28 June 1753.

which included grants from Government and from the Oswald Trustees of £650 and £338 respectively ...

The teachers shall be members of the Established Church of Scotland ... The hours of teaching shall be at least five during five days in the week, three on Saturdays, and one on the Sabbath ...”<sup>200</sup>

The schools, which had served the poor of the parish for many decades, were closed in 1890 and the pupils transferred to a new, modern school in Townhead.

### The Shadow of the Factories

It was during the lairdship of Miss Oswald’s grandfather, John Kincaid of that Ilk, that the Industrial Revolution began to take shape. The parish of Campsie, until then a farming community, found itself in about 1790 the possessor of a mill and a ‘printfields’. The mill was the property of the Lennox, but it was the Laird of Kincaid who set up the cotton printing works, “Kincaid-field”, an establishment for the bleaching and printing of cotton fabrics, employing a workforce of 374, of which about one third was female. Each year it bleached and printed 70,000 pieces of cotton fabric, each of 24 yards.<sup>201</sup> It may well have been this enterprise that allowed the Laird to pay off the debts of his father.

These industrial enterprises led to a large increase in the population of the parish. In 1789, the population was 1627. Four years later it had increased by 60 per cent to 2517. In the next 38 years it more than doubled again as industrial concerns multiplied.

As the shadow of the factories fell over Kincaid, so other shadows appeared. Estates became expensive to maintain, money was short and labour, once plentiful, was being drawn to the cities. Although some of the landed gentry were to enjoy an Indian summer throughout the Victorian and Edwardian ages, their eventual doom was writ large across every estate.

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<sup>200</sup>The Oswald and Kirk Session School Minute Book.

<sup>201</sup>*The Statistical Account of Scotland*, by Ministers of Respective Parishes, 1842, page 255.





## **PART TWO**

# **THE PUBLIC SERVANTS**





## CHAPTER SEVEN

# IRELAND

The first record we have of Kincaids in Ireland is in 1626, when John Kinnceade MA was a priest in the prebend of Connor (Co. Antrim) and then ordained Deacon on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1627. The next mention of a Kincaid comes in 1636 with the:

“Examination of Robert Patterson of Newtown, Co. Tyrone, before John, Lord Bishop of Derry. He was accused of spreading a scandalous report about the North of Ireland and so he did repeat it to Lt. William Hamilton and Mr. John Kinkedd, but had heard it from two Scotch gentlemen.”<sup>202</sup>

In 1649, the following appear on the ‘Irrolment of the Adjudication in favour of the 1649 officers.’ These adjudications refer to the arrears of the commissioned officers who served Charles I or Charles II in the Wars in Ireland before 5<sup>th</sup> June 1649: Captain Alexander Kinked, Alexander Kinkead, Claude Kinkead, Captain Robert Kinkead, Francis Kinkead. All these officers are described as Irish landed gentry, so clearly they had settled in Ireland prior to this date and were not, therefore, soldiers of fortune.

### Cromwell’s Irish Campaign

Whether these officers, who had served the Stuart kings in Ireland, fought against Cromwell in 1646 is not known, although Captain Alexander Kinkead, of Captain Lord Montgomery’s Regiment, reappears in Dublin in 1661 where he made a will mentioning his six children and his brother Clement. Clearly he had not been at Cromwell’s bloody sack of Drogheda and Wexford:

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<sup>202</sup> *Calendar of State Papers, Ireland.*



“It has pleased God to bless our endeavours at Drogheda. After the battle we stormed it. The enemy were about 3000 strong in the town. We refused them quarter. I believe we put to the sword the whole number of the defendants. I do not think thirty of the whole number escaped with their lives. This has been a marvellous great mercy. I do not believe that any officer escaped with his life, save only one lieutenant, who, I hear, going to the enemy, said that he was the only man that escaped of all the garrison. The enemy upon this were filled with much terror. And I truly believe this bitterness will save much effusion of blood, through the goodness of God.”<sup>203</sup>

However, it may well be that other Kincaid officers were at Drogheda or Wexford as these towns were garrisoned by the Marquess of Ormonde’s army of Protestant Royalists, and the Kincaids were likely to have been protestants. Cromwell’s cold-blooded destruction of these forces may seem horrific to us in this supposedly more enlightened age, but was it any worse than the battles of the Somme, Marne and Ypres in the First World War, or the destruction of the cities of London, Coventry, Dresden, Hamburg, Berlin, Warsaw, Hiroshima and Nagasaki in the Second? All these horrors were ordered by men who believed that they were doing the right thing. Cromwell believed he had God on his side, but his actions at Drogheda and Wexford did not “save much effusion of blood”; they stoked up the hatred in Ireland’s future.

Cromwell came and went. At his death, England restored its monarchy, but the Stuart kings continued to strive for absolute power and a return of their nation to Catholicism. By 1688 the country had had enough and turned to William of Orange.

The Revolution of 1688 was not a clear-cut affair between Catholics and Protestants, particularly in Scotland. In the Highlands it became an extension of the clan feuds, thus when the Campbells backed William in the hope of gaining land as a reward, the McDonalds automatically declared for James II even though they had no reason to love him, and indeed did not even feel subject to him. In the Lowlands, many protestant families supported James as a protest against the increasing domination of London and its puppets in Edinburgh. In the church, both Catholics and Covenanters were dispossessed by the Test Act. Times were turbulent.

Some Kincaids were probably Jacobites, perhaps those in Dalgreen where much later James “drank to the Pretender’s son, wishing damnation to His Majesty”,<sup>204</sup> but most were undoubtedly Protestant and supporters of the ‘Glorious Revolution’ and would have been sympathetic to William’s military actions against James II in Ireland.

<sup>203</sup> Letter from Oliver Cromwell to John Bradshaw, President of the Council of State, 16<sup>th</sup> September 1649.

<sup>204</sup> See Chapter Five.



Ireland: places associated with the Kincaids

### The Kinkead Branches

*Associated Genealogical Table Number 6 is at page 275.*

While there are records in Scotland of Kinkeads, they are rare whereas in Ireland this spelling is at least as common as Kincaid. It seems that by about the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when spelling ceased to be the rather hit-and-miss affair of a recording clerk who wrote what he heard (sometimes spelling a particular word in several different ways in the same document), most of those members of the family who had already settled in Ireland spelled their



name Kinkead. They may well have come from the Falkirk area, as that is where most of those Scots with that spelling were recorded in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but they must have done so well before 1649, as the “1649 officers” were described as Irish landed gentry.

One of these landed gentry, Captain Alexander Kinkead of Lord Montgomery's Regiment, described as a gentleman of Dublin, made a will in 1661. In it he mentions his brother Clement and his children Robert, John, Paul, Hugh, Margaret and Mary. Half a century later William Kinkead, a linen draper in Aughastrike in Co. Down, made a will in which he mentioned his wife Agnes, his uncle Patrick and his children Robert, John, Jane and Elizabeth.

The parish records of Megheralin, near Hillsborough also in Co. Down, are full of Kinkeads born there in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Indeed Albert Kinkead, son of Thomas Kinkead and his wife Elizabeth, had eleven children by his wife Elizabeth Dowey between 1885 and 1907.<sup>205</sup>

One branch of the Kinkeads is unusual in that a repeated Christian name is Moses, which does not seem to have been used in any other Kinkead or Kincaid branch. One of these Moses was from Hillsborough in Co. Down and his brother Matthew made his will in 1762 referring to his own son Moses.<sup>206</sup> There is another Moses, a brother of Alexander Kinkead, a revenue officer in Dublin. It is likely that one of these Moses Kinkeads was the father of another Moses, whose son Francis is on record as gaining a BA degree at Trinity College Dublin in 1829.

This Reverend Francis Kinkead married Elizabeth Crofton and they had a son Richard John Kinkead, born in Ballina, Co. Mayo, in about 1840. Richard was educated at Rossall College, the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland and Dublin University, where he gained silver medals in medicine and surgery before embarking on a most distinguished career. He practised in Tuam in Co. Galway from 1865 to 1877. He became a professor in 1876, a member of the governing body of University College Galway and an examiner for the National University of Ireland and for Queen's University. He went on to become President of the Irish Medical Association and a fellow of the Royal Academy of Medicine. His publications included *The Irish Medical Practitioner's Guide*; *Insanity, Inebriety and Crime*; *Our Senses and How They Serve Us*; and *The Use and Abuse of Alcohol*. He died in 1928. His first wife was Alice Langley and he later married Emily, widow of Colonel Poulett Somerset, by whom he had four daughters.<sup>207</sup>

<sup>205</sup> Details of the entries in the Magheralin Parish Records in a letter from Ann King (nee Kinkead) to Paul Kinkead of Lisburn, 4 October 2000.

<sup>206</sup> *Index to Prerogative Wills in Ireland 1536-1810*.

<sup>207</sup> Details taken from *Who Was Who 1916-1928*, volume II, A&C Black, London, 1947.



It has proved difficult to connect up all the individuals with this spelling, but Paul Kinkead<sup>208</sup> has spent a considerable amount of time on family research and has produced genealogical tables connecting up his own Kinkead ancestry. He has provided the information on the following Kinkeads.

John Kinkead was Master of the Royal North Downshire militia. He purchased a 34-acre farm at Rosconnor, in the parish of Kilmore, Co. Down for £59 6s 9d. He married Mary McMordie, daughter of a wealthy landowner, whose dowry was £4000, a huge sum in those days. His son, also John, inherited the wealth and when he died in 1849, he left £1595 11s 3d, as well as farms at Rosconnor and Drumaghlish, to his wife Matilda Carson, and another farm at Tullyvallen and a house in Hillsborough to his sisters Deborah, Mary and Jane. As Deborah is an uncommon name in the family, it may suggest a close link between these landowners and the family of Moses Kinkead of Hillsborough, and therefore with Francis Kinkead, alumnus of Trinity College Dublin.

Deborah's sister Mary Jane Kinkead, on her death, left the farm at Tullyvallen to her cousin Richard John Kinkead, son of Reverend James Kinkead, as well as £500, silverware, a gold watch and chain and furniture; the house in Hillsborough was left to her cousin Annie Elizabeth Kinkead.

These Kinkeads were wealthy farmers, but another close relative farmed in a smaller way close by. John Kinkead had a farm of 20 acres and 2 roods, valued at £21 15s, in Moira, a few miles to the west of Hillsborough.<sup>209</sup> It seems he was the son of Joseph Kinkead, son of John Kinkead, whose wife came from Moira. John, the small farmer, had six sons and five daughters.

Two of these sons, Joseph and Robert, founded a business in 1894 in Belfast which manufactured woven wire mattresses, pioneering this type of business in Ulster. The company expanded fast and new premises were required in 1900. In 1906, they began manufacturing curled hair for bedding and upholstery and became a sub-contractor to the Harland and Wolff shipyard. The company continued to expand and when the partition of Ireland took place in 1922, the company was split between Dublin and Belfast with Robert running the Belfast business and another brother, James, heading the Dublin operation.

The business continued to thrive between the wars as a family firm with Kinkeads of the younger generations becoming directors, but after the Second World War a decline set in. In 1963, the Kinkeads lost control of the company but, although the firm is now Kayfoam Woolfson Limited, it remains registered in Northern Ireland as Kinkead Brothers Limited.

The second son of Robert Kinkead, co-founder of Kinkead Brothers, was also named Robert but at the age of 14 he contracted meningitis. Although he

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<sup>208</sup> Paul Kinkead of Lisburn, Northern Ireland.

<sup>209</sup> From a list of owners of land of more than one acre in Ireland, published in 1876.





Dr. Robert William Kinkead

survived, he lost his hearing and the sight in one eye. Nevertheless, he gained a BSc, MSc and PhD in Chemistry at Queen's University Belfast, winning the year prize in 1915. Dr Robert Kinkead became a senior research chemist with the Linen Research Institute and a fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry. Despite his disabilities, he was an international bridge player and a first class rifle marksman. A keen golfer, he was a life member of the Balmoral Golf Club which had been co-founded by his father.

Dr Robert Kinkead was the grandfather of Paul Kinkead who has provided so much information on the Kinkeads in Ireland.

### **Kincades in Ireland**

*Associated Genealogical Table Number 7 is at page 276.*

Unlike the Kinkeads, who are very much an Irish branch of the family, those who spell their name Kincade are more numerous in Scotland, and it seems that they may not have arrived in Ireland until Robert Kincade settled in

Coleraine in about 1850.<sup>210</sup> It is possible that he came from the Campsie area as there are two Roberts, although spelled Kincaid, who were born at approximately the right date, one the son of John Kincaid and Christian Morison born in 1814, the other the son of Robert Kincaid and Janet MacFarlane born in 1827. No other Robert Kincaids of whatever spelling are recorded as being born in Stirlingshire between 1786 and 1836, but to tie Robert Kincade to one of these is premature.

Robert Kincade had two sons, Joseph and James. Joseph was clearly not enamoured with Ireland for, in 1883, he set sail in the *Duke of Devonshire* for Australia. His story is told in Chapter Twelve.

Joseph's brother James remained in Ireland. He had two sons, Robert and George, and two daughters, Jean and Margaret. Robert died of wounds in France in 1918 at the age of 28. George also served in France, in the 36<sup>th</sup> Division signal company from 1915 to 1919, and was of that generation that found itself pitched back into war in 1939, although he had a less active role in the Second World War, being a lieutenant in the 1<sup>st</sup> Cadet Battalion of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers where he trained cadets.

George Kincade married Rebecca Lyons. Their elder son James was educated at Foyle College and, although both George and Rebecca believed in 'betterment' for their children or in other words education, he was all set to join the Royal Air Force as soon as he was eighteen. Rebecca wanted him to go into the Prebyterian church and he was persuaded to start at Magee University.

"Derry in 1942 seems oceans distant and centuries away. I gaze through the smoke of my pipe into the past, and try and raise the nebulous ectoplasm that was myself. Those were the green years and nothing in Ireland was greener than I. Magee was inhabited by the Navy and the lawns were soon submerged in Nissen huts. Beyond the huts were allotments with ancient graduates digging, seriously raising cabbage and cauliflowers as part of the war effort. Magee itself was shuttered and dark. Black-outs were rampant and the library was musty and rusty with non-usage. Barrage balloons festooned the horizons and the sound of the air raid sirens was heard over the land. The river was a busy thoroughfare for warships and many a ship limped into the Foyle after a mauling in the Atlantic. To me Magee seemed a pocket of calm in the midst of a storm, and my struggles with Latin, Greek, Philosophy and Physics were ephemeral and evanescent . . . I remember the faces of friends and the drone of voices in that dark backward and abysm of time; but I found neither understanding nor rest at that time and after examinations in March, I escaped for a season. Bewildered and terrified of war, yet looking to it as an escape from the urgent need to think seriously, I blundered on like a drunkard trying to walk the white line."<sup>211</sup>

<sup>210</sup> Details of the Kincades in Ireland supplied by Noel Kincade.

<sup>211</sup> *In the Forties*, James Kincade, The Acorn, Autumn 1965.



He joined the Royal Air Force and flew in India and Burma.

“He returned safely and went back to Magee but the war had knocked all the notion of the Church out of his head. When mother discovered this she was very upset and, in consternation turned to me. I fled! By then I was eighteen and escaped to the Bank!”<sup>212</sup>

After Magee, James went to Trinity College Dublin where he was a scholar, gaining his master's degree, a gold medal and the Stein Research Prize. He went on to Oriel College Oxford and then to Edinburgh University where he gained his PhD.

With this extensive academic education, he set out to educate others. After nine years as senior English master at Merchiston College School, he was appointed headmaster of the Royal School Dungannon in 1961 and, after thirteen years there, moved on to become headmaster of the Methodist College Belfast, a post he filled for fourteen years. Not surprisingly he was in demand in educational circles to fill all sorts of posts: he was President of the Ulster Headmasters Association (1975-1977), a member of the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (1987-1990), and a member of the Standing Committee of Queen's University Belfast from 1982. Jobs in other areas also came his way, including Trustee of the Save the Homeless Fund and Chairman of the Northern Ireland Fashion and Design Centre. He was appointed a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 1988.<sup>213</sup>

He was also National Governor of the BBC for Northern Ireland, a post which he enjoyed and which gave him some interesting moments.

“I enjoyed my six years on the Board and I met some extremely fascinating people, among whom was Margaret Thatcher. I had met her on a few previous occasions, but we had an interesting meeting in the Art Gallery of the Guildhall in London in December 1986 after a Thanksgiving Service. Fay [James's wife] was in a group with Bill Cotton and Brian Wenham and they discussed with the Prime Minister a forthcoming visit to the BBC by Norman Tebbit. Both of the latter strongly disapproved of the perceived political bias of political programmes and the lady was forthright in her views – as always.

Mrs Thatcher then steered me to one side to seek my views on the turbulent situation in Northern Ireland. We spoke for about five minutes and I found her to be exceedingly well informed, very quick in comprehension and most incisive. However she then took me by the arm to look at a large painting by Landseer. It depicted a lioness caught in a rope trap and it was most graphic and violent. She said, ‘The interesting thing about this is the mouse.’ I had not noticed it nibbling at the rope wrapped around a tree – and of course it is the

<sup>212</sup> Letter from Noel Kincade to the author, 25 March 2003.

<sup>213</sup> Details from *International Who's Who*.

Aesop fable about the weak saving the life of the strong. Mrs Thatcher continued, 'We have the companion picture in Chequers [the Prime Minister's official residence] but Winston [Churchill] did not like the mouse. So he climbed up one day, painted out Landseer's mouse and painted his own.' Then her finger went out in a characteristic manner and she said, 'But that mouse is better than my mouse.'

She left me chuckling at the thought of the old man climbing a ladder to deface a million pound painting, but probably enhancing its value at the same time."<sup>214</sup>

James's brother Noel, who had "escaped to the Bank", continued his career in banking, ending as Director of Marketing in the Ulster Bank, but is now more interested in crime – as chairman of the Northern Ireland Crime Prevention Panel. He is an avid sportsman and, although his main interest is in rugby union football, he was chairman and then president of the North of Ireland Cricket and Football Club.

### **The Irish Branch of the Kincaids**

*Associated Genealogical Table Number 8 is at page 277.*

The Hamiltons were Protestants and allies of the Kincaids in Scotland, so when some Hamiltons left for Ireland in 1689 to fight for William III, at least one Kincaid accompanied them. It is not known who this man was, but one likely candidate is the third son of the great Edinburgh surgeon, Thomas Kincaid, the President of the Royal College of Surgeons. His third son, Michael, was born about 1663 and appears in his brother's Edinburgh Diary (see Spotlight III) but there are no records which show for certain that he was in Scotland after 1689.

As we have seen in Spotlight II on arms and tartan, Thomas recorded arms with a change of crest, as he felt that a broadsword hardly created the right image for a surgeon. His new crest of a hand holding a 'bistoury', a narrow-bladed surgeon's knife, seems to have survived only through the Irish Kincaids which leads us to suppose that many of the Kincaids in Ireland were descended from him. His eldest son, Thomas the diarist, stayed in Edinburgh and his second son fought in Flanders for William before settling in Scotland at Auchinreoch, so his third and last son Michael who disappears from Scottish records in about 1689 (although there is one mention of a Michael Kincaid in Kelso in 1703) may well have been the Kincaid who accompanied the Hamiltons to Ireland. Although this is conjecture, it is family folklore.

In 1689 the exiled James II landed in Ireland, and amidst tremendous enthusiasm in the south, established himself in Dublin. It was estimated that

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<sup>214</sup> Reminiscence by James Kincade, 13 March 2003.



his army, although poorly equipped, numbered 100,000. King William III had his eyes on Europe and sent an inadequate force to Ireland. The defence of Londonderry was the one English success of 1689, and it can be assumed that the Hamiltons and the (Michael?) Kincaid who had accompanied them to Ireland were there. The following year William, with Marlborough at his side, arrived at the head of a large army. All hope for James disappeared at the Battle of the Boyne and, by the end of 1690, he had returned to France. Ireland had been made safe from further Jacobite invasion. The Marquis of Abercorn was a Hamilton and owned large areas of land in Donegal and Tyrone. Kincaid (Michael?) settled on Hamilton land at Kilcaddon in Donegal, not far from Strabane. Whether he stayed in Ireland or returned to Scotland is not known, but while in Ireland it seems he must have married and had three sons, all of whom remained in Ireland to give rise to the three main Kincaid lines there.<sup>215</sup>

One of these sons settled in Coleraine. His name is not known, nor anything about him, but his descendants are believed to have moved to Hillsborough in Co. Down. It may well be that the branch of Kinkeads who lived in the Hillsborough area (see above) are descended from this son.

Another of Michael's sons, again with no name recorded, settled at Barons Court, the headquarters of the Abercorn family which is near Newtownstewart in Co. Tyrone. He had a son, Charles, who is believed to have been the ancestor of all the Kincaids of Newtown-Cunningham and Raphoe in Donegal. If this was the case he would probably have been the grandfather of three brothers, Patrick, Robert and Andrew, all of whom emigrated to Canada between 1838 and 1845. The descendants of these emigrants are still living in Canada, mainly in Ontario.<sup>216</sup>

Michael's third son was called James. He also settled near Barons Court at a place called Island McHugh. This is at the northern end of Lough Catherine and a mile or two from the castle of Newtownstewart. James's eldest son John inherited his father's property and became known as Long John Kincaid of Island McHugh. John's other two brothers, James and Joseph, became Presbyterian clergymen. James, like John, died without issue, but Joseph had eight children.

### **The Reverend Joseph Kincaid**

The Reverend Joseph was born in 1723 in Drumbuoy, Co. Donegal, near Newtown-Cunningham and was ordained at Stranolar in 1745. He officiated

<sup>215</sup> Much of the detail on the Irish Kincaids is taken from a document written by Joseph Kincaid of Dublin, written in 1829 and updated in 1872 by him shortly before his death.

<sup>216</sup> See Chapter Twelve.

at Killinchy, Co. Down without any formal appointment from 1755-1763 and was finally installed there officially in 1763. He appears to have been a man of very strong principles for:

“... not agreeing with the Killeagh Presbytery, to which this church [Killinchy] was attached, had the connection severed and, I think, joined to Bangor. Apparently for the benefit of the farmers and people who had to come a long way in their carts to the service at Killinchy, stalls of food were erected near the church porch; a publican thinking to improve the facilities put up a stall of his commodities, which was so against the Rev. Joseph’s principles, he brought his blackthorn stick to church and smashed every bottle and overturned the stall.”<sup>217</sup>

He married Fanny Cochrane, the sister of James Cochrane of Edenmore in Co. Donegal. This marriage was the first in a long series of marriages between Kincaids and Cochranes, with seven in four generations. He and Fanny had five sons and three daughters. Joseph’s eldest son James married another Fanny Cochrane, but despite seven children had no Kincaid grandchildren, while his second son Joseph died unmarried at the age of twenty. Two other sons, William and Robert, emigrated to the United States.

After the death of Fanny at the age of 42 in 1769, Joseph married Katherine Kinderick, but they had no children. The Reverend Joseph died in 1782 and was buried in Killinchy churchyard. After his death his widow lived in a thatched cottage in Killinchy, granted free to her during her life by Mr Potter of Ardsview together with some land in the neighbourhood which was known for some considerable time thereafter as “Kinkead’s Fields”. On her death in 1810, Katherine left £70 to the poor members of the Killinchy congregation.

### **John Kincaid the Surgeon**

It was now left to Joseph’s third son, John, to continue the Island McHugh branch. As a young man he was a surgeon in the East India Company’s army, at a time when India was a centre of conflict between Pitt’s vision of a worldwide British Empire and Napoleon’s world ambition. The East India Company had owned little land, but now they had to acquire more and more to safeguard their trade. Tipu Sultan, the ruler of Mysore, dreamed of domination over the whole of southern India. The Marquess Cornwallis defeated him and made him surrender half his territory, but the threat was not extinguished. A few years later in 1798, Tipu began to assemble

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<sup>217</sup> Letter from Mrs Ivy McNeil to Mrs Hilda Kincaid of Galt, Ontario, October 1969.





### Irish Kincaids

*(Top left) Joseph Kincaid (1797-1875)*

*(Top right) Joseph's eldest son John Henry Kincaid*

*(Bottom left) Joseph's daughter Maryanne*

*(Bottom right) Joseph's wife, Lucy Busby, and their daughter Charlotte*

a French-trained army, and there was the threat of direct French support from Mauritius. The Marquess Wellesley offered a “subsidiary treaty”, under which Tipu was to dismiss all Frenchmen, disband his army and pay the East India Company to protect his state. Tipu rejected the offer and decided to fight. The final act was played out in 1799, when Wellesley chased Tipu back to his capital Seringapatam, stormed the city and killed Tipu. The surgeon John Kincaid was a part of the successful army. Retiring soon after, still a young man, he became a magistrate in Co. Donegal. He had married Ann Cochrane in 1793, but whether she accompanied him on his army travels is not known. He died in 1817.

During the first century that Michael Kincaid’s descendants lived in Ireland, the country was relatively peaceful, despite harsh measures imposed on Catholics. However, by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, this harsh treatment had pushed Irish Catholics to the verge of open rebellion. Pitt saw measures were necessary and gave Catholics the vote. In 1800 the Act of Union was passed, but the concessions only whetted the appetite. Ireland was to remain without real peace into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **The Reverend John Kincaid**

John the surgeon had two sons and four daughters, only one of whom married a Cochrane. His second son, John, went to Trinity College Dublin in 1822 at the age of 17, gaining his BA in 1829 and his MA in 1832. He entered the church and in 1830 became Curate of Drumholm, a small village six miles south of Donegal. John was to spend the remainder of his life in this area as Curate of Rossnowlagh from 1831 to 1847 and Prebendary and Rector of Drumholm from 1847 to 1883.<sup>218</sup>

He came to know the Raphoe Kincaids well and presented Patrick Kincaid, who later emigrated to Canada, with a bible. This bible became the Canadians’ ‘family bible’ and contains much information on the life of Patrick and his family and is still in existence in Ontario.<sup>219</sup> Rev. John was a great scholar and his books, some of which existed until the 1960s, were scholarly and beautifully written in 18<sup>th</sup>-century script.<sup>220</sup>

In his last year as Rector he died at the age of 78. He is buried in the graveyard at Ballintra; two magnificent gravestones are memorials to him and his sister Catherine who lived with him at the Manse at Muroagh for many years.

As Rev. John never married, his elder brother Joseph was left to carry on the name. In 1827 he married a Liverpool girl, Lucy, daughter of William Busby, and they had four sons and six daughters. Lucy Busby is remembered

<sup>218</sup> *Raphoe Clergy and Parishes*, compiled by Canon J.B. Leslie.

<sup>219</sup> See Chapter Twelve.

<sup>220</sup> Letter from Hilda Kincaid of Ontario, Canada to the author, 14 January 1970.



as a small, dark, clever, disagreeable old woman, who was a very unkind mother to her daughters.<sup>221</sup>

“I never met my grandfather [Joseph Kincaid] as he died long before I was born. My mother told me that no-one could have had a more kind or delightful father and she was devoted to him; I think much more so than to her mother [Lucy Busby] who wasn't nearly so understanding or sympathetic to her ten children ... I don't think any of my family was particularly fond of my grandmother! She was a pretty tough old lady.”<sup>222</sup>

Joseph left Donegal and settled in Dublin where he joined the firm of land agents known as Stuart and Company. He rose to be a partner and the firm changed its name to that of Stuart and Kincaid. The senior partner married a Miss Pakenham, sister-in-law of the great Duke of Wellington. Joseph managed the estates of Lord Palmerston, whom he came to know extremely well and who, late in his life, presented to Joseph two magnificent marble busts, one of himself and one of Joseph. From his photograph Joseph looks happy, successful and a man of great self respect. His writing was bold and full of character.

### John Henry Kincaid

Joseph's eldest son, John Henry Kincaid, naturally followed his father into the firm, as did his third son, James Stuart. His other two sons left Ireland, William for India with a commission in the Army and Joseph, after gaining a BA at Trinity College, Dublin, for London and a career as a civil engineer. Nothing much further is known of James Stuart, except that he married Mary Westby and had three children, one of whom emigrated to Canada, one of whom never married and the third, Lucy, who married Mr Rooke. The career of William is well documented but belongs to a later chapter.

John Henry Kincaid was:

“... a man of outstanding character and appearance. Heavy in build and with handsome aquiline features and a fine beard, he stood over six foot tall and was a first rate whip, rode well to hounds, was a fine yachtsman, a great swimmer and an expert billiard player. He had a distinguished career at Trinity as a classic, and as a land-agent, he had a profound knowledge of Irish estate management – in particular of forestry – and of the politics which were part and parcel of Irish farming. But his chief attraction was his unpredictableness. One never knew what he would do next. He had his foibles and could be very strict. For instance no whistling was allowed in his hearing and on his yachts he

<sup>221</sup> Letter from Alice Humphreys to Owen Tweedy.

<sup>222</sup> Author's interview with Dorothy Etlinger, 13 April 1976.

could be a terrific martinet. But he loved children and they loved him though their love was tempered with a deep awe.’’<sup>223</sup>

Owen Tweedy believed that John Henry was the most exciting man he had ever met. Great-nephews and great-nieces remembered his real affection for them, perhaps intensified by his disappointment in the lack of any grandchildren of his own. He loved quality, enjoyed being outrageous and playing the fool, but he could be very dignified and charming with certain people and was very much a man of the world. He was a lavish tipper, but would not place anything in the church collection if he disapproved of the service or the sermon. His dressing room smelled of cigars and lavender water. He kept a cow in Dublin, a champion Kerry, which accompanied him to Mullaghmore in the summer. He loved travelling and would take sudden trips abroad; he sailed to Iceland to see an eclipse and visited Scotland, Windsor, Paris and America, staying in the best hotels. He hunted and had a very deep love of poetry. An exciting man indeed.

At 26, young for those days, he married Isabella Style who was 18. Bella was brilliant and clever and interested in new things. She had three boys, but at the age of 31 she died. The following year John Henry’s youngest son Herbert also died and he was a widower with two young children. Two years later he married Sidney Margaret Meredith, the widow of Captain Meredith and a great friend of Bella’s. They were wonderfully matched and a second happy marriage followed.

With his second wife came the estate of Cloonamahon, which lay about ten miles south of Sligo where in 1865 Lord Mount Temple succeeded to Lord Palmerston’s estates. John Henry Kincaid had an agent’s house at Mullaghmore, but in 1865 Lord Mount Temple presented the house to his agent for his own property.

“Mullaghmore lay some 16 miles north of Sligo just round the corner of the northern spur of Benbulbin Mountain. It was an extraordinary place – a tiny rock-bound headland with the Atlantic stretching westwards unbroken to America save where the horizon was broken by the low black outline of the mysterious Innismurray Island where a king ruled in his own right and his subjects did what was right in their eyes. To the north across Donegal Bay towered a rough outline of deep blue mountains stretching out into the west to Rathlin O’Beirne.’’<sup>224</sup>

Lord Palmerston had wanted to improve the lot of his tenants and had built a pier at the harbour and a set of houses, with the idea that Mullaghmore would become a port and a summer resort. And for a time a

<sup>223</sup> *The Dublin Tweedys*, Owen Tweedy, page 136.

<sup>224</sup> *The Dublin Tweedys*, Owen Tweedy, Chapter 27.



resort it became. On the green were sheep, goats, donkeys, hens and ducks, children played “French and English”, “Tig” and “Nuts in May”, while adults attempted tennis on the rough ground. The children swam and everyone went on picnics. By 1870 it was the ideal holiday resort, but the villagers were less fortunate, with many houses being empty and ruined because their occupants had died or emigrated to America.

But now trouble really began to mount in Ireland. The great object was the destruction or ejection of all the great landlords of Ireland and their agents.

“In 1879 Michael Davitt, who two years before had been released from prison after a Fenian attack on Chester Castle, founded the famous Land League. Its weapons were the boycott and the ‘no-rent’ campaign and its object to bring landlordism to its knees. Officially the movement kept within legal bounds; but the harvest of 1879 was the worst since the Great Famine and this led to an outbreak of agrarian crime which expressed itself in the shooting of many landlords and their agents. Those were the dark days of ‘Captain Moonlight’ and of secret societies pledged to obtain Ireland’s independence by means of assassination.”<sup>225</sup>

John Henry Kincaid lived precariously. He had to travel all over Ireland, to Cork, Mayo, Roscommon and Sligo. As one of the Tweedys wrote:

“We are waiting here till the rent collections are over. The people mean to pay a quarter’s rent but not a farthing of the half year in which they are in arrears. Ireland is very disturbed. Almost every day one hears of a murder. Lord Mount Morres last week. The Land League are gaining in power; the country is controlled by Parnell; the Government are weak. So things look very black and no Irish family can tell on whom the next blow may fall.”<sup>226</sup>

In 1880, when the Conservatives under Disraeli were defeated, everyone looked to Gladstone’s Liberals with expectation. But two years later their Irish policy was in ruins and the Kincaids had to leave Cloonamahon and Mullaghmore and retire to their house in Dublin. Here, politicians from Westminster would seek them out and ask John Henry’s views on the situation as he had a unique knowledge of what was going on through his continual travelling. His political judgement was much respected.

### Exit From Ireland

Mullaghmore was burned down by a mob celebrating the 1910 election results while Cloonamahon descended to Kincaid’s stepchildren. There

<sup>225</sup> *The Dublin Tweedys*, Owen Tweedy, Chapter 30.

<sup>226</sup> *The Dublin Tweedys*, Owen Tweedy, Chapter 30.

seemed little future in land owning in Ireland, and two of John Henry's brothers had already left Ireland: William for a distinguished career in the Army, and Joseph, after a degree at Trinity College Dublin, for London and a career as a civil engineer.

Joseph had graduated as a Bachelor of Arts from Trinity College Dublin in 1857 and later gained his Master's Degree. He began his civil engineering career in Ireland as assistant engineer on the Kingstown harbour works and as engineer-in-charge in the construction of the Mullaghmore harbour, part of Lord Palmerston's estate managed by John Henry Kincaid. From 1860 to 1863, he installed the town lighting of Bilbao and Lograno in Spain and was engaged in the construction of the Tudela and Bilbao Railway.

"His name is more particularly identified, however, with the introduction and development of tramways in Great Britain and other countries; he was indeed one of the pioneers of this particular branch of engineering, having even prior to the Tramways Act of 1870 constructed a horse-tramway from Dublin to Black Rock."<sup>227</sup>

Joseph introduced a new type of tram rail which became known by his name, and he was among the first to introduce mechanical propulsion on tramways: first the steam locomotive, then cable-traction, and finally electric traction. He was responsible for a considerable mileage of tramways in England, including the Highgate Hill line, and overseas.

"As an authority upon tramway matters he was frequently called upon to give evidence in parliamentary committee rooms and in arbitration cases . . . He was also consulted professionally in connection with railways and gasworks in England, on the Continent and in America."<sup>228</sup>

From 1892 he practised in a partnership with Edward Manville and Philip Dawson.

A description of his career might make him seem rather an intense man, especially as he never married. However,

"I got on very well with Uncle Jo who was always full of interest . . . Joseph never married and Aunt Margaret [Joseph's sister] never married, but between them they had a good many girlfriends and boyfriends!"<sup>229</sup>

He bought some land at Ewhurst in Surrey and on it built a house which he called Bookhurst, living there for much of his career. He died in 1907 and a memorial to him exists, not in Ireland nor in Scotland, but in Ewhurst,

<sup>227</sup> *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers*, volume CLXXI, page 416.

<sup>228</sup> *Minutes of the Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers*, volume CLXXI.

<sup>229</sup> Author's interview with Dorothy Etlinger, 13 April 1976.



Surrey, his home for much of his career, where there is a window in the church there in memory of him, his father and three of his sisters:

“To the glory of God and in memory of Joseph Kincaid of Bookhurst Esquire, 1835-1907, Joseph Kincaid 1797-1875, Lucy Kincaid 1807-1899, Catherine Mathilda Kincaid 1843-1872, Fanny Margaret Kincaid 1846-1903.”

Although Joseph's eldest brother, John Henry, still lived in Dublin, another brother, William, had already carved out a distinguished career in India,<sup>230</sup> and the next generation of this branch of the Kincaids left Ireland for good for the Army, the Indian Civil Service or Canada. Others had previously emigrated to the New World. So passed the Kincaid land in Ireland. It had never been extensive and seemed to reflect the situation in Scotland. The Kincaid landowners had disappeared by the time John Henry Kincaid died in 1917.

This was not the end of the Kincaid story in Ireland. Descendants of other branches, with varied spellings of the family name and their story yet to be documented, remained in the country, but henceforth Kincaids who were to make any mark, whether in Ireland, Scotland, England, the countries of the Empire or in North America, would do so as military men, civil servants, merchants or industrialists. The trend that had started with Thomas the surgeon in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and continued with Provost Alexander Kincaid and Sir John Kincaid in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries had now reached its conclusion.

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<sup>230</sup> See Chapter Eleven.







## CHAPTER EIGHT

# THE FALKIRK KINCAIDS

*The associated Genealogical Table Number 9 is at page 278.*

In Chapter Five, we left James Kincaid of Dalgreen drinking the health of the Young Pretender as Prince of Wales and wishing damnation to His Majesty King George II. Branded a rebel by the government, he might have sought safety and opportunity in the New World, but we have no firm evidence for this and, if he did cross the Atlantic, he seems to have returned shortly afterwards to the Falkirk area. It is more likely that he stayed and suffered a spell of imprisonment – very few of the ‘45’ rebels were executed – and lost his lands at Dalgreen, for there is no further mention of these lands. James was 45 years of age when the Young Pretender was routed on the fields of Culloden and, although the proof is not complete, it seems that by then he had fathered four sons by his wife Janet Simpson and five years later had a fifth son who was baptised in Falkirk. So it seems almost certain that the rebel, James Kincaid in Dalgreen, survived and continued to live in, or returned to, the Falkirk area.

James’s eldest son, Thomas, was fourteen at the time of the ‘45’ and lived to the venerable age of 81. He was a farmer at Newlands which is a mile or two south-east of Falkirk. Two monuments in the churchyard of the Old Parish Church in Falkirk commemorated him,<sup>231</sup> his wife Elizabeth Chieslie and their descendants providing valuable information, which coupled with the entries in the parish registers, provide the heart of the genealogical tree of the Falkirk Kincaids.

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<sup>231</sup> The churchyard has since been cleared of all but a few gravestones and monuments, and the Kincaid monuments are no longer in existence.



### Sir John Kincaid of the Rifle Brigade

Thomas's eldest son John, a farmer at Newlands, was the father of the celebrated soldier John Kincaid of Rifle Brigade fame, but died when his son was only seven years old. Young John was educated at Polmont School, leaving there at about the age of fifteen to do a succession of jobs in business. But he longed to be a soldier or, at least, to strut proudly in splendid uniform. He joined the Stirling Volunteers and then was gazetted a lieutenant in the North York Militia. His heart, however, was set on the regiment that was to become the Rifle Brigade, which had:

"... long been the object of my secret adoration, as well for its dress as the nature of its services and its achievements, the old 95<sup>th</sup> – the first in the field and the last out of it, the bloody fighting 95<sup>th</sup>." <sup>232</sup>

He fought through most of the Peninsular War, where he led the storming party at the bloody capture of Ciudad Rodrigo, and from Badajoz onwards, he was acting Adjutant. He was Adjutant at Waterloo and gives us a very clear picture of that battle in his first book:

"I shall never forget the scene which the field of battle presented about seven in the evening. I felt weary and worn out, less from fatigue than anxiety. Our division, which had stood upwards of five thousand men at the commencement of the battle, had gradually dwindled down into a solitary line of skirmishers. The twenty-seventh regiment were lying literally dead, in square, a few yards behind us ... I had never heard of a battle in which everybody was killed; but this seemed likely to be an exception, as all were going by turns." <sup>233</sup>

The slaughter was indeed horrific, but Kincaid survived and lived on to become superintendant of Bridewell, then Senior Exon at the Tower of London in which post he was knighted. Finally he became inspector of prisons and factories for Scotland. His story is told in much fuller detail in Spotlight IV.

### The Kincaid-Smiths

Sir John became the mentor for the grandson of his uncle Alexander, another John Kincaid, and helped him in his quest to join the Army. On the 9<sup>th</sup> December 1854 he wrote to the Duke of Richmond:

<sup>232</sup> *Random Shots of a Rifleman*, John Kincaid, T&W Boone, London, 1835.

<sup>233</sup> *Adventures in the Rifle Brigade*, John Kincaid, Oxford University Press, London, 1919, pages 232-233.



Falkirk Kincaids

(Top left) Sir John Kincaid of the Rifle Brigade

(Top right) Sir John Kincaid when Inspector of Factories and Prisons in Scotland

(Bottom left) Sir John Kincaid's grave

(Bottom right) Malcolm Kincaid-Smith



“Home Office.

Dear Lord Duke,

I mean to bring my kinsman, Kincaid Smith, on Monday morning at 10 on the chance of its being convenient for your Grace to receive us.

In my hurried note on Thursday, I omitted to say that your Grace was quite right in believing that I would not have recommended him had he not been in every respect entitled to this recommendation, for with an unimpeachable reputation he is a generous, open-hearted fellow who at the same time knows how to take care of his money. On the death of his father, an extensive Farmer, wishing to see more of the world than a rural life permitted, he realised his property, purchased a Ship, laid in a cargo and went on a roving Cruise into the Indian and Chinese seas, going wherever profit or Curiosity tempted him. Returning from his successful Cruise two years ago, his Uncle died leaving him the fortune I mentioned, for which he had to take the name of Smith.

Not being born an Aristocrat of his County and his fortune being too small to permit his seeking a place among them & the House bequeathed to him being moreover too large for the fortune left to support it, he has very prudently let the House.

I think it due to your Grace to ascertain why a young man of his pretensions prefers taking service under you rather than in his Native area.

Believe me Dear Lord Duke

Your ever obliged J Kincaid”<sup>234</sup>

Although Sir John Kincaid referred to his young protégé as Kincaid-Smith, he is shown as John Smith in the Army List, as he had been left Polmont House by the brother of his mother, Elizabeth Smith, on condition that he adopted the name of Smith. Later, probably after the death of his uncle, he officially adopted the name of Kincaid-Smith.

The reason for Kincaid-Smith seeking an appointment from the Duke of Richmond was because the Duke was the Honorary Colonel of the Royal Sussex Artillery Militia, which had just formed in April of that year with the transfer of 206 volunteers from the Royal Sussex Light Infantry Militia.<sup>235</sup> He scented action and found it. On 1<sup>st</sup> February, the newly-formed volunteer regiment was ‘embodied’ to fight in the Crimean War.

If John Kincaid-Smith had joined the militia to fight in Russia, he could not have known what it would be like.

<sup>234</sup> I am very much obliged to Mrs M.C. Carnegie for sending me a copy of this letter.

<sup>235</sup> *The Militia Artillery 1852-1909*, Norman Litchfield, the Sherwood Press, Nottingham, 1987.

“Amid storms and blizzards the British Army lay, without tents, huts, food, warm clothes, or the most elementary medical care. Cholera, dysentery, and malarial fever took their dreadful toll. Raglan’s men had neither transport nor ambulances, and thousands were lost through cold and starvation because it did not occur to the Government of the greatest engineering country in the world to ease the movement of supplies from the port of Balaclava to the camp by laying down five miles of light railway.”<sup>236</sup>

That first winter of 1854-1855 was a nightmare, but things slowly improved, not least with the arrival of Florence Nightingale, under whose inspired leadership the hospital death toll dropped from 42 per hundred to 22 per thousand men. Peace was declared in March 1856, and the Royal Sussex Militia Artillery returned to England (presumably with John Kincaid-Smith amongst them) to be ‘disembodied’ in the middle of June that year.

John Kincaid-Smith’s eldest son inherited Polmont House, but his other two sons followed their father’s profession and joined the Regular Army. Malcolm headed the Army Class at Eton and passed into the Royal Military College Sandhurst in 1892 where he represented the college at racquets. He was commissioned into the 9<sup>th</sup> Lancers in 1894. After tours of duty in India and West Africa, he was in South Africa in 1896 at the time of the ill-starred Jameson Raid by forces of the British South Africa Company, which was one of the triggers for the Boer War. He returned to England in 1903 to be placed on half-pay due to an injury to one of his eyes that he had earlier received playing racquets in India. Besides racquets, he excelled at polo and steeplechasing.<sup>237</sup>

Retiring as a captain, he stood as a Liberal for the Stratford-on-Avon seat in Warwickshire in the 1906 election, which he won. Although opposed to conscription, Malcolm was a strong advocate of military training and introduced a bill into the House of Commons which would have ensured that every physically fit man belonged to the Territorial Army, and was liable to occasional military training between the ages of eighteen and twenty-four. In one edition in 1909, he was *Vanity Fair’s* Man of the Day:

“He is youthful and enthusiastic, and both traits were in evidence when he resigned his seat this year to test the feeling of his constituency on the question of national military training; but the result was disconcerting, and proved that the test was not a real one. Captain Kincaid-Smith is a strong advocate of Imperial Federation, and believes that the only way to induce our colonial dependencies to contribute towards Imperial Defence in proportion to their

<sup>236</sup> *A History of the English Speaking Peoples*, Winston Churchill, Cassell & Co., London, 1962, volume 4, page 60.

<sup>237</sup> Details taken from *Who Was Who 1929-1940*, and *Vanity Fair’s Man of the Day*, number MCLXXXV, London, 18 August 1909.



growing wealth is to establish a Federal Assembly. During the time he represented Stratford-on-Avon, it was evident that he was not in sympathy with the Liberal Party on many questions, and he has now joined the Liberal-Unionist Council . . . He is slow of speech and mild-mannered, and more like a modest cleric than a rebel. He is not easily moved, and his persistence will make its influence felt . . . Among his late brother officers and intimate friends he is known as 'Alice'.”<sup>238</sup>

He returned to soldiering in the First World War, was mentioned in despatches and retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Malcolm's elder brother, Kenneth, also joined the Army, being commissioned into the Royal Artillery in 1891. In 1896, he was seconded to the British South Africa Company and it was while there that he took part in the notorious Jameson raid which was not only a disaster but precipitated the Boer War.<sup>239</sup> He returned to the British Army the following year and won his 'jacket' (as the coveted posting to a horse artillery battery was termed) serving in India. In 1899, as soon as the Boer War broke out, he was posted from India to South Africa, and as a lieutenant found himself at Ladysmith with his kinsman Major Charles Kincaid of the Royal Irish Fusiliers.<sup>240</sup> The Commander Royal Artillery had a number of batteries under his command, including:

“A 'Maxim-Nordenfeldt Battery' consisting of the two 12.5 pounders captured at Elands-laagte, manned by horse artillerymen who had come from India with remounts under Lieutenant K. Kincaid-Smith.”<sup>241</sup>

During the Boer War, he was mentioned in despatches twice, won the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) and was promoted captain. He received the Queen's Medal with five clasps and the King's Medal with two.

In 1906 he was again seconded, this time to the West African Frontier Force for a year. Back home he found himself behind a desk as Assistant Military Secretary. Promoted major in 1909 he was given another desk job, again as Assistant Military Secretary, but this time in Dublin.

Once the First World War had broken out in 1914 further promotion quickly followed. He was mentioned in despatches again and was appointed a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG). Promoted to the rank of brigadier-general, he commanded the artillery forces of the 25<sup>th</sup> Division on the western front from October 1916 until the end of the war in 1918.

<sup>238</sup> *Vanity Fair*, number MCLXXXV, London, 18 August 1909.

<sup>239</sup> See Chapter Eleven.

<sup>240</sup> See Chapter Eleven.

<sup>241</sup> *The Royal Irish Fusiliers 1793-1968*, Marcus Cunliffe, Oxford University Press, 1970, page 325.

His first major engagement as the Commander Royal Artillery (CRA) of the division was that at Messines in 1917, followed by the battles of Ypres. In 1918, the pace was furious: the first battles of the Somme in March, the battles of the Lys, Kemmel ridge and Scherpenberg in April, and the battle of the Aisne in May and June. At the end of June the 25<sup>th</sup> Division was taken out of the line and returned to England for training and reorganisation but they were back at the front by 3<sup>rd</sup> October in time to take part in the battle of the Hindenburg Line and Cambrai. Thereafter they conducted the pursuit into Picardy and fought at the battles of the Selle and the Sambre. On 7<sup>th</sup> November they were relieved and were still resting when the Armistice was declared four days later.<sup>242</sup>

In recognition of his work in the last two years of the war, Kenneth was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath in 1919. After retirement he was a Justice of the Peace and then High Sheriff of Essex.<sup>243</sup> Although he is said to have always carried a marriage licence in his pocket, he never used it.

### Marine Engineers in Greenock

By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Greenock was becoming a major British shipbuilding town, and many Kincaids were drawn there to work. In the middle to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, there were Kincaid shipowners, shipmasters, ropemakers, stokers, carters, joiners, shipwrights, clerks, labourers, grocers, confectioners, lithographers, stationers, engine drivers, housewives and a cattle dealer. John Kincaid-Smith's brother, Thomas Kincaid, was one of those who was drawn to the town. He left Falkirk as a young man to go to sea, and based himself at Greenock, from which port he sailed for many years. He became a shipmaster and a shipowner, but he had an originality of mind with a strong inventive streak.

“It must be stated to his credit that he was really one of the inventors of the screw propeller, and he brought the idea before the British Association . . . in so high estimation was his opinion held, that he was consulted by the town authorities in connection with the laying out of the Garvel Park and Docks, and in many other undertakings of an engineering kind, his opinion was frequently asked.”<sup>244</sup>

<sup>242</sup> *Order of Battle of Divisions*, Part 3, Major A.F.Becke, His Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1938, pages 135-142.

<sup>243</sup> *Who Was Who 1941-1950*.

<sup>244</sup> Obituary in *The Greenock Telegraph and Clyde Shipping Gazette*, 19 March 1884.





### Greenock Kincaids

*(Top) John G. Kincaid, founder and chairman 1868-1924*

*(Bottom left) James S. Kincaid, chairman 1924-1940*

*(Bottom right) Randall G. Kincaid, chairman 1940-1964*

Outside his business concerns, Thomas found time for local matters, at various times being a representative of the ratepayers and town treasurer. He was a strong churchman. He died in 1884 at the venerable age of 88.

Thomas's second son, John George Kincaid, was born in 1840 and educated at Greenock and the College du Havre in France. He served an apprenticeship with Caird & Co in Greenock, remaining associated with that company for several years, including a spell at sea as a junior engineer. The itch to travel was great and in 1864 he sailed for South America as second engineer on the *Rio Parana*, a Caird-built ship.

“The destination was Buenos Aires, a place that was to figure largely in his life and memories. While there he went to war in Paraguay in charge of the Brazilian store steamer *Ozorio*. They followed the wake of the warships 1400 miles up the river to the sack of the capital Asuncion. On returning to Buenos Aires, Mr Kincaid joined the owners of *Rio Parana*, the Compania Nueva Saltina, ultimately becoming their superintendent engineer.”<sup>245</sup>

The war, the result of a very delicate balance of power in the River Plate region, lasted five years but brought no benefit to Argentina. In 1868, while the war was still in progress, John G. returned to Greenock with a contract from the Compania Nueva Saltina for a new steamship, its construction to be overseen by him. During that year, in partnership with John Hastie and Robert Donald, he purchased the Clyde Foundry, but with the ship completed, he returned to Buenos Aires to run it in. While there he visited two of his brothers who owned farms in Argentina.

The business and family visits in Argentina completed, John G. returned to Scotland and his new business.

“The early production was mostly single-cylinder, non-condensing steam engines as were common in the early Clyde puffers. The products of the company gradually increased in complexity with the introduction of compounding, triple expansion machinery and condensers, and culminating in 1924, the year of the founder's death, in the first marine diesel under a Burmeister & Wain license.”<sup>246</sup>

By 1882 Hastie and Donald had retired from the firm, which became John G. Kincaid & Co. The product range continued to expand, and in 1919 the company acquired Caird's engine works. The story of the company is presented in more detail under Spotlight V.

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<sup>245</sup> *Kincaid's 1868-1968*, the centenary booklet produced by John G. Kincaid & Co Ltd, Greenock, 1968, page 7.

<sup>246</sup> *Dictionary of Scottish Business Biography 1860-1960*, edited by Anthony Slaven and Sydney Checkland, Aberdeen University Press, page 221.



Like his father, John G. had a great interest in local affairs. He was an officer in the Volunteers and an elder of Greenock West Kirk. He took an active part in the work of the Greenock Chamber of Commerce, the Clyde Lighthouses Trust and the Greenock District Nursing Society. He was a member of the Institution of Naval Architects, the Royal Society of Arts (he loved music), and was at one time president of the North West Engineering Trades Employers Federation.

John G.'s younger brother, Charles Stewart Kincaid, was also a director of the company. He never married and was said to be of "a retiring disposition".<sup>247</sup> His hobby was yachting.

John G. was survived by four sons, two of whom were on the company's Board. James Scott Kincaid was the second of his sons and he took over as chairman and managing director on his father's death. He was an authority on diesel engines and one of the first engineers to appreciate the significance of the diesel engine in the marine world. Like his father and grandfather, James S. was interested in the marine and local worlds outside the company: he was vice-chairman of the National Association of Marine Engine Builders, a trustee of the Greenock Eye Infirmary and a trustee of Greenock Harbour, a director of the Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Greenock Provident Bank and a Justice of the Peace for Renfrewshire. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire after the First World War.

On the death of James Scott Kincaid in 1940, his brother Randal G. Kincaid became chairman and managing director until his retirement in 1964, when he assumed the role of president. By then Kincaid's was a firm of the first rank.

"The largest marine engineering concern in the country is Kincaids of Greenock, which rivals Rowan's of Govan and John Brown's of Clydebank for first place among the firms on the Clyde."<sup>248</sup>

But John G. Kincaid & Co Ltd now had little time remaining as an independent family company, as they were nationalised as part of British Shipbuilders in 1972.

It seems a long way from the rebel James Kincaid in Dalgreen drinking damnation to King George II to the nationalisation of a major marine engineering company, but it is a period of only a little over 200 years, or six generations. Perhaps this shows clearly how fast Scotland and the United Kingdom developed in those two centuries.

<sup>247</sup> Obituary in *The Greenock Telegraph and Clyde Shipping Gazette*, 19 January 1924.

<sup>248</sup> *The Third Statistical Account of Scotland – Renfrew and Bute*, by Moisley, Thain, Somerville and Stevenson, 1962, p 52.

When John G. Kincaid was in Argentina as a young man, he visited his two brothers who were farming there. One of these brothers remained in Argentina but the other, Thomas, returned to England where as a shipwright he found work in London. One of his grandsons was killed at the age of eighteen aboard *HMS Encounter* in the battle of Java during the Second World War, but the other is the noted artist and illustrator of this book, Eric Kincaid.



Eric Kincaid, artist, with his wife Angela Mills

Too young to fight, Eric lived through the blitz in the East End where it was most ferocious and, although his immediate family survived, all their photographs and records were destroyed. Eventually his mother moved her family to the country. After the war, Eric went to Gravesend Art School and, after National Service in the Royal Air Force, started a career as a freelance illustrator. In time he concentrated on illustrating children's books, his versatility of style and superb eye for detail making him one of the most successful artists in that field. His books have sold eight million copies in fourteen languages. He now lives in Dorset with his second wife Angela, a fellow illustrator.





Sir John Kincaid of the Rifle Brigade

## **Spotlight IV**

# **Sir John Kincaid of the Rifle Brigade**

John Kincaid was born on 24 July 1787, the second son of John Kincaid of Dalbeath, near Falkirk, who farmed a small property and who died young.

For a man who was to spend six years of his early adulthood fighting Napoleon's forces in Spain, France and at Waterloo, his first appearance in the world seems outstandingly well timed. At his birth, the seeds of the French Revolution were already germinating. At about the time he was celebrating his fourth birthday, Louis XIV and his queen Marie Antoinette were tried, found guilty and guillotined, and a few days later the French revolutionary government declared war on Great Britain and Holland. The following year a young Corsican lieutenant sprang to prominence in the taking of Toulon from the Royalists, and within a year this Corsican, Napoleon Bonaparte, had taken command of the French army in Northern Italy, where he proceeded to defeat the Austrian forces. By the time Kincaid had completed his education at Polmont School near Falkirk, the French were the masters of Europe, and Napoleon had had himself crowned by the Pope as Emperor of the French.

The British Army had been driven from the European mainland and only the Royal Navy stood between Britain and a Napoleonic invasion. The turning point, perhaps, came in 1805 when Nelson's victory at Trafalgar removed the threat of invasion, sealed Britain's unchallenged mastery of the seas and guaranteed her ability to select where she would confront Napoleon's generals on land.

### **The Rifle Brigade**

After school, Kincaid spent three years in the counting house of a Leith mercantile merchant, and then he was asked by a timber merchant to take



charge of branch establishment “in that Wapping of Glasgow, called the Gorbals.”<sup>249</sup> He was “a tall, ramrod of a fellow, as fat as a whipping post”, and he was drawn by the splendour of military uniform. He joined the Eastern Battalion of the Stirling Volunteers and, although the uniform was ill-fitting, “no peacock ever strutted more proudly as I did in mine”. The following year, he became a lieutenant in the North York Militia, serving in Kent and Sussex, including duty on board the rotting prison hulks in the Medway, described so vividly by Charles Dickens:

“By the light of the torches, we saw the black Hulk lying out a little way from the mud of the shore, like a wicked Noah’s ark. Cribbed and barred and moored by massive rusty chains, the prison-ship seemed in my young eyes to be ironed like the prisoners. We saw the boat go alongside, and we saw him taken up the side and disappear. Then, the ends of the torches were flung hissing into the water, and went out, as if it were all over with him.”<sup>250</sup>

Although Dickens wrote *Great Expectations* in 1861, he set it in the time of his own childhood in the same Medway area around 1820, only a decade or so after Kincaid had done duty on those same prison hulks.

Then in 1809 Kincaid received a commission in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion of the Ninety-Fifth Rifles, the Regiment that had:

“... long been the object of my secret adoration, as well for its dress as the nature of its services and its achievements, the old 95<sup>th</sup>, now the Rifle Brigade – ‘the first in the field and the last out of it, the bloody fighting 95<sup>th</sup>’.”<sup>251</sup>

The story of his next six years is fully related in his highly readable book *Adventures in the Rifle Brigade*. In writing this book, Kincaid has a homily for the reader:

“Should this narrative, by any accident, fall into the hands of others who served there, and who may be unreasonable enough to expect their names to be mentioned in it, let me tell them that they are entirely mistaken! – Every man may write a book for himself if he likes, but *this* is mine; and, as I borrow from no man’s story, neither will I give any man a particle of credit for his deeds, as I have got so little for my own that I have none to spare. Neither will I mention any regiment but my own, if I can possibly avoid it, for there is none other that I like so much, and none else so much deserves it; for we were the light regiment of the Light Division, and fired the first and last shot in almost every battle, siege, and skirmish, in which the army was engaged during the war.”<sup>252</sup>

<sup>249</sup> *Random Shots of a Rifleman*, John Kincaid, T&W Boone, London, 1835.

<sup>250</sup> *Great Expectations*, Charles Dickens, Penguin Books, London, 1985, page 71.

<sup>251</sup> *Random Shots of a Rifleman*, John Kincaid, T&W Boone, London 1835.

<sup>252</sup> Unless otherwise stated, all passages quoted in this chapter are taken from *Adventures in the Rifle Brigade*, John Kincaid, Oxford University Press, London, reprinted 1919.

The 95<sup>th</sup>, later to be called the Rifle Brigade, was formed only a few years before Kincaid joined it, but although it was one of the most junior Regiments in the Army, it was not long before its gallant professionalism had made it one of the most distinguished. Trained initially by enthusiastic and forward-looking officers, in particular Sir John Moore, it was the first unit to be equipped with the rifle. This weapon was a great advance on the smooth bore musket, the Brown Bess, but even so was only able to fire one round a minute and could only be expected to hit a man at less than 300 yards.

From the beginning of the Peninsular War, the 95<sup>th</sup>, together with the 43<sup>rd</sup> and 52<sup>nd</sup> Regiments, formed the famous Light Division, which under General Crauford was to do such brilliant work throughout that war. Among its battle honours are the Coa, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Salamanca, Vittoria and Waterloo.

After joining the 95<sup>th</sup> in the spring of 1809, John Kincaid accompanied the second battalion on the ill-fated expedition under the Earl of Chatham to seize the Dutch island of Walcheren at the mouth of the Scheldt to use as a base from which to take Antwerp from the French. But the French reinforced Antwerp and the British Army was destroyed, not by the French, but by malaria.

“We remained about three weeks, playing at soldiers, smoking *mynheer*’s long clay pipes, and drinking his *wrow*’s butter-milk, for which I paid liberally with my precious blood to their infernal mosquitoes; not to mention that I had all the extra valour shaken out of me by a horrible ague, which commenced a campaign on my carcass, and compelled me to retire upon Scotland, for the aid of my native air, by virtue of which it was ultimately routed.”

### Arrival in Portugal

The following spring John Kincaid joined the first battalion and by September had joined Lord Wellington’s<sup>253</sup> army in Portugal. His description of Lisbon reveals much of his character:

“We anchored in the Tagus in September; no thanks to the ship, for she was a leaky one, and wishing foul winds to the skipper, for he was a rascally one.

To look at Lisbon from the Tagus, there are few cities in the universe that can promise so much, and none, I hope, that can keep it so badly. I only got on shore one day for a few hours, and as I never again had an opportunity of correcting the impression, I have no objection to its being considered an uncharitable one; but I wandered for a time amid the abominations of its streets and squares, in the vain hope that I had got involved among a

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<sup>253</sup> Sir Arthur Wellesley was created Viscount Wellington after the battle of Talavera in July 1809, and Duke of Wellington in 1814.



congregation of stables and out-houses; but when I was, at length, compelled to admit it as the miserable apology for the fair city that I had seen from the harbour I began to contemplate, with astonishment, and no little amusement, the very appropriate appearance of its inhabitants.

The church, I concluded, had, on that occasion, indulged her numerous offspring with a holiday, for they occupied a much larger portion of the street than all the world besides. Some of them were languidly strolling about, and looking the sworn foes of time, while others crowded the doors of the different coffee houses; the fat jolly-looking friars cooling themselves with lemonade, and the lean mustard-pot-faced ones, sipping coffee out of thimble-sized cups, with as much caution as if it had been physic.

The next class that attracted my attention was the numerous collection of well-starved dogs, who were indulging in all the luxury of extreme poverty on the endless dung-heaps.

There, too, sat the industrious citizen, basking in the sunshine of his shop door, and gathering in the flock which is so bountifully reared on his withered tribe of children. There strutted the spruce cavalier, with his upper man furnished at the expense of his lower, and looking ridiculously imposing; and there – but sacred be their daughters, for the sake of *one*, who shed a lustre over her squalid sisterhood, sufficient to redeem their whole nation from the odious sin of ugliness. I was looking for an official person, and was endeavouring to express my wishes to a boy, when I heard a female voice in broken English, from a balcony above, giving the information I desired. I looked up, and saw a young girl, dressed in white, who was loveliness itself! In the few words that passed between us, of lively unconstrained civility on her part, and pure confused gratitude on mine, she seemed so perfectly after my own heart, that she lit a torch in it which burnt for two years and a half. It must not detract from her merits that she was almost the only one that I saw during that period in which it was my fate to tread war's roughest, rudest path; daily staring his grim majesty out of countenance, and nightly slumbering on the cold earth or in the tenantless mansion."

Clearly this is the writing of a high-spirited young man with an indomitable sense of humour. He is obviously romantic, observant and articulate, with a refreshingly original turn of phrase. Later on he reveals himself as resourceful, brave – even foolhardy at times – a little cynical, and of almost unlimited initiative and *joie-de-vivre*. It is easy, when reading his book, to visualise this war as interesting, amusing, and not at all serious, for this is the impression the author gives as he continually illuminates the bright side of things, is incurably optimistic and refuses to allow the brutal battles to unnerve him or reduce him to melancholy. However, the Peninsular War was not a trifle: Wellington and Crauford were harsh generals, expecting amazing feats from those under their command. The long route marches, the harsh climate and the terrible slaughter at battles like Badajoz and Ciudad Rodrigo make today's battles seem comparatively soft – at least physically.

Kincaid joined Wellington's army after the heady successes of the summer of 1810 when it was retreating to the lines of Torres Vedras for the winter. These formidable lines of defence in Portugal between the Tagus and the sea had been specially prepared by Wellington to ensure a safe base, but Kincaid is quite certain that they were not as formidable as some places that the French were unable to hold. He was surprised that Marshal Messena failed to attack them.

### **The Campaign of 1811**

The campaign of 1811 opened on 6<sup>th</sup> March and, after a swift march, the enemy was caught near Sabugal on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, and routed. Two days later the army took "one step from the coal-hole into the parlour" (as the crossing of the Spanish frontier from Portugal was described), and this was almost immediately followed by the Battle of Fuentes d'Onoro, in which Kincaid was hit:

"Our battalion was thrown into a wood, a little to the left and front of the division engaged, and was instantly warmly opposed to the French skirmishers; in the course of which I was struck with a musket ball on the left breast, which made me stagger a yard or two backward, and, as I felt no pain, I concluded that I was dangerously wounded; but it turned out to be owing to my not being hurt."

This rather negative battle was the last of that year, although months of manoeuvring remained before winter quarters were occupied in a position blockading Ciudad Rodrigo.

Manoeuvring meant daily hardship. At times, Kincaid went 36 hours without anything to eat, and bivouacking was often miserable:

"We bivouacked for the night in a ploughed field, under the castle, with our sentries within pistol shot, while it rained in torrents ... There are several degrees of comfort to be reckoned in a bivouac ... The first, and worst, is to arrive at the end of a cold wet day, too dark to see your ground and too near the enemy to be permitted to unpack the knapsacks or to take off accoutrements; where, unencumbered with baggage or eatables of any kind, you have the consolation of knowing that things are at their worst, and that any change must be for the better."

When permitted to unpack his haversack, it was important to find that it contained the essentials for life, when every other form of supply had failed. Kincaid listed his essentials as a couple of biscuits, a sausage, a little tea and sugar, a knife, fork and spoon, a tin cup (answering as he says to the names of



tea-cup, soup-plate, wine-glass and tumbler), a pair of socks, a piece of soap, a toothbrush, a towel, a comb and half-a-dozen cigars.

“Every species of barbarity continued to mark the enemy’s retreating steps. They burnt every town or village through which they passed; and if we entered a church, which by accident had been spared, it was to see the murdered bodies of the peasantry on the altar.”

In a skirmish on 15<sup>th</sup> March at Foz d’Aronce, he was again struck by a musket ball, this time above his left temple, and was deposited full length in the mud:

“I know not how long I lay insensible, but, on recovering, my first *feeling* was for my head, to ascertain if any part of it was still standing, for it appeared to me as if nothing remained above my mouth; but, after repeated applications of all my fingers and thumbs to the doubtful parts, I at length proved to myself, satisfactorily, that it had rather increased than diminished by the concussion. Jumping on my legs and hearing the whistling of the balls from both sides, I snatched my cap, which had saved my life, (and which had been spun off my head to the distance of ten or twelve yards) and joined the skirmishers, a short distance to the rear, when one of them ... told me that an officer had been killed, a short time before, pointing to the spot where I myself had fallen, and that he had tried to take his jacket off, but that the advance of the enemy prevented him.”

In May of that year, he was promoted to lieutenant. The winter of 1811 was spent blockading Ciudad Rodrigo, but this did not prevent amusements:

“We invited the villagers, every evening, to a dance at our quarters alternately. A Spanish peasant girl has an address about her which I have never met with in the same class of any other country; as she at once enters into society with the ease and confidence of one who has been accustomed to it all her life. We used to flourish away at the bolero, fandango, and waltz, and wound up early in the evening with a supper of roasted chestnuts...”

In passing the house of the sexton one evening, I saw his daughter baking a loaf of bread; and falling desperately in love with both her and her loaf, I carried one to the ball and the other to my quarters.”

### **The Storming Party at Ciudad Rodrigo**

The campaign of 1812 began early, on the 8<sup>th</sup> January, with the siege of Ciudad Rodrigo. After eleven days, the town was stormed successfully by the Light Division. Kincaid volunteered for the storming party and gives a fine eyewitness account of the ‘fog of war’:

“We had some difficulty at first in finding the breach, as we had entered the ditch opposite to a ravelin, which we mistook for a bastion. I tried first one side of it and then the other, and seeing one side of it a good deal battered, with a ladder placed against it, I concluded that it must be the breach, and, calling to the soldiers near me to follow, I mounted with the most ferocious intent, carrying a sword in one hand and a pistol in the other; but when I got up, I found nobody to fight with except two of our own men, who were already laid dead across the top of the ladder. I saw, in a moment that I had got into the wrong box, and was about to descend again, when I heard a shout from the opposite side that the breach was there, and moving in that direction, I dropped myself from the ravelin, and landed in the ditch, opposite to the foot of the breach, where I found the head of the storming party just beginning to fight their way into it. The combat was of short duration; and in less than half an hour from the commencement of the attack, the place was in our possession.”

Kincaid was most elated by this success, as he had long dreamed of leading a successful storming party. But as the sun,

“... showed his face, I took a look at my own, and found that I was too unclean a spirit to worship, for I was covered with mud and dirt, with the greater part of my dress torn to rags.”

Amongst the casualties at Rodrigo was the commander of the Light Division, General Crauford, who was killed at the moment the breach was carried. A strong disciplinarian and by no means universally loved, he was nevertheless deeply mourned by the whole division.

### **Badajoz and Madrid**

From Rodrigo the army moved to Badajoz, which was stormed by the Fifth Division after the Light Division had been bloodily repulsed, and where Kincaid was acting adjutant. Then on to a devastating victory at Salamanca and the final approach to Madrid, with much speculation about the probable nature of their reception. Throughout their campaigns to date, they had only encountered the peasantry with its rooted hatred of the French, but the citizens of Madrid had been living for four years in comparative peace under French government. Would the British be viewed as unwelcome intruders? But when the army entered the capital on the afternoon of 13<sup>th</sup> August, they found themselves hailed as liberators, the whole population crowding the streets and “emulating each other in heaping honours and caresses upon us.” Here Kincaid found himself almost happy, despite a great shortage of cash:

“The only bar to our complete happiness was the want of money, as, independent of long arrears, already due, the military chest continued so very



poor that it could not afford to give us more than a fortnight's pay during those three months; and as nobody could, would, or should give cash for bills, we were obliged to sell silver spoons, watches, and everything of value that we stood possessed of, to purchase the common necessities of life."

Two-and-a-half months of pleasure were terminated by the approach from the south of Marshal Soult with an army that outnumbered the British by nearly two to one. Wellington retreated to winter quarters near Ciudad Rodrigo, thus ending the long campaign of 1812. The British had shattered one French army in Spain, but Wellington's opinion was that it had been close and that, if Napoleon had been there, he would have won. But Napoleon was not there: in 1812 he set out on the disastrous campaign against Russia where his main forces were destroyed by the scorched-earth policy of General Kutuzov, by bloody defeat at Borodino and by 'General Winter'.

### Peace

France was now critically weakened and the 1813 campaign in Spain began with the incredible month-long march to give battle at Vittoria, and continued with the march to the Pyrenees and into France. Marshal Soult's defeat in these battles, coupled with the previous winter's disastrous retreat from Moscow, was too much for Napoleon, who abdicated after the battle of Toulouse.

"The news of the peace, at this period, certainly sounded as strangely in our ears as it did in those of the French marshal, for it was a change that we had never contemplated. We had been born in war, reared in war, and war was our trade; and what soldiers had to do in peace, was a problem yet to be solved among us."

The peace of 1814 saw the return of the regiment to Hythe and of Kincaid to Scotland to shoot woodcock.

### Waterloo

The peace, however, was short lived and the victorious allies were at odds. Napoleon, in exile in Elba, took swift advantage. At the head of a thousand men, he landed in France and within eighteen days he was back in Paris at the head of the nation. Within a month, Wellington had taken command of a British Army in Belgium. But many of the Peninsular War veterans had been disbanded or were in America, and in all only six regiments of cavalry and twenty-five battalions of infantry, some largely untrained, were available. There was little artillery. Kincaid rejoined his regiment in Brussels.

The battle of Waterloo, in the words of Wellington, was a “damned close run thing”. Kincaid seems to agree:

“I had never yet heard of a battle in which everybody was killed; but this seemed likely to be an exception, as all were going by turns.”

He was now Adjutant of the Rifle Brigade and, because of this important position, was able to give a much more informed account of the battle than those of the Peninsular. However, he was nearly unable to finish his book. Besides his luck in standing while so many around were falling, one particular incident was all but fatal:

“Our first line was getting so thinned, that Picton found it necessary to bring up his second, but fell in the act of doing so. The command of the division, at that critical moment, devolved upon Sir James Kempt, who was galloping along the line, animating the men to steadiness. He called to me by name, and desired ‘that I would never quit that spot’. I told him that he might depend upon it: and in another instant I found myself in a fair way of keeping my promise more religiously than I intended; for, glancing my eyes to the right, I saw the next field covered with cuirassiers, some of whom were making directly for the gap in the hedge where I was standing. I had not hitherto drawn my sword, as it is generally to be had at a moment’s warning but, from its having been exposed to the last night’s rain, it had now got rusted in the scabbard, and refused to come forth! I was in a precious scrape!”

Fortunately for him as well as us, he was rescued by a charge of the Life Guards who carried all before them. And then at long last came the order to advance:

“The movement had carried us clear of the smoke; and to people who had been for so many hours enveloped in darkness, in the midst of destruction, and naturally anxious about the result of the day, the scene which now met the eye conveyed a feeling of more exquisite gratification than can be conceived. It was a fine summer’s evening, just before sunset. The French were flying in one confused mass. British lines were seen in close pursuit, and in admirable order, as far as the eye could reach to the right, while the plain to the left was filled with Prussians.”

Historians have long argued over the role that the Prussians played at Waterloo. Kincaid is quite certain that:

“Lord Wellington would not have fought at Waterloo unless Blucher had promised to aid him with thirty thousand men, as he required that number to put him on a numerical footing with his adversary. It is certain that the promised aid did not come in time to take any share whatever in the battle.



It is equally certain that the enemy had, long before, been beaten into a mass of ruin, in condition for nothing but running, and wanting but an apology to do it; and I will therefore ever maintain, that Lord Wellington's last advance would have made it the same victory had a Prussian never been seen there."

But the casualty list was long. When Wellington saw it, he wept.

Johnny Kincaid makes several appearances in two of Georgette Heyer's historical novels: in *An Infamous Army*, which is set in Belgium before and at the Battle of Waterloo, and more centrally in *The Spanish Bride*, which is set during the Peninsular War and at Waterloo. The latter novel is based on an episode in John Kincaid's second book, when after the sack of Badajoz, he and another officer were approached by two Spanish ladies; the older one:

"... stood by the side of an angel! – a being more transcendently lovely I had never seen before – one more amiable, I have never yet known! ... To look at her was to love her – and I did love her; but I never told my love, and in the meantime another, and a more impudent fellow, stepped in and won her! ... She and I conceived a friendship for each other, which has proved as lasting as our lives."<sup>254</sup>

Heyer portrays him as very tall, charming, having a "questioning lift of the eyebrows", with a lounging walk, repeatedly falling instantly in love with pretty young girls, but imperturbable in the face of danger:

"“Oh, orderlies and batmen!” said Kincaid, who had just lounged in as though he had nothing to do and had not that instant returned from a perilous reconnaissance journey with his Colonel almost to the very edge of the glacis above the ditch outside Badajos.”<sup>255</sup>

Much of this can be read in, or guessed from, Kincaid's books, but she brings him vividly to life.

### France, Scotland and Canada

Waterloo was the pinnacle of Kincaid's Army career. He was adjutant of one of the most distinguished infantry regiments in the Army under one of its greatest ever generals, fighting in one of the most glorious episodes in British military history. For the next four years after Waterloo, he served with the Army of Occupation in France. Returning home in 1819, he found great unrest:

<sup>254</sup> *Random Shots of a Rifleman*, John Kincaid, T&W Boone, London, 1835.

<sup>255</sup> *The Spanish Bride*, Georgette Heyer, Pan Books Ltd, London, 1964, page 22.

“... as thousands of discharged soldiers and seamen, abruptly abandoned by a grateful, post-war government, rejoined a seething, impoverished and discontented populace. Kincaid, stationed in Glasgow between 1819 and 1820, was horrified to find several former riflemen among the discontented – and still more horrified to be obliged to quell their legitimate grievances by turning a mailed fist against them. He did his duty on this as upon every other occasion – but a subsequent five-year tour of duty in relatively peaceful Ireland must have seemed a sinecure in comparison.”<sup>256</sup>

In 1825 and 1826, he served in Canada as adjutant to Major Harry Smith, the “impudent fellow” who had married his Spanish “angel”, and was promoted captain the following year. He had yet to solve his problem of what soldiers did in peace, but while in Canada he founded a literary circle, “The Club”, and published articles in the *Nova Scotian* magazine. It may have been this that sowed the seeds of his future career as an author. He retired in 1831 at the age of 44 possessing the Silver War Medal with clasps for Fuentes d’Onoro, Ciudad Rodrigo, Badajoz, Salamanca, Vittoria, Pyrenees, Nivelles, Nive and Toulouse, and the Waterloo Medal.

### **Bridewell**

The shadows of his time guarding the prison hulks in the Medway as a young man must have gathered about him as he took up the post of Superintendent Keeper at Bridewell House of Correction in London in 1833.

“Almost immediately his presence made itself felt. His predecessor and the turnkey had both been sacked for ‘misuse of funds’; by 11 September, the Prison Committee were writing in glowing terms of their ‘great satisfaction in reporting the prison to be in a much better state as to order and cleanliness than they have ever witnessed it’. These initial efforts of Kincaid’s were rewarded with ‘a Bed-side carpet, a copper coal-scuttle, a Hearth rug & Kitchen and Parlour Fire Irons’.”<sup>257</sup>

He continued at Bridewell for fourteen years on a salary of only £250 per year. In 1844 he became Exon of the Yeomen of the Guard and on becoming Senior Exon in 1852 he was knighted according to custom.

### **Inspector of Prisons and Factories**

From 1847 until shortly before his death in 1862 he was Inspector of Prisons, and from 1852 he was also Inspector of Factories for Scotland. His reports, of

<sup>256</sup> *A Most Gallant Soldier*, M. Congreve Carnegie.

<sup>257</sup> *A Most Gallant Soldier*, M. Congreve Carnegie.



course, use language far removed from his accounts of the Peninsular battles and Waterloo – not surprisingly, as he was writing to bureaucrats in Whitehall. Nevertheless, there is the occasional flash of unorthodoxy. In describing one of two fatal factory accidents in one half-yearly report, he wrote:

“The other was a man aged 40, employed at a factory in Dundee; he had ascended in a hoist to an upper floor, where he stepped out for a basket of bobbins, which he dragged backwards without looking behind him, towards where he had just left the hoist, but which it was conjectured some person had in the meantime caused to ascend, and the unfortunate man fell through the vacuum a depth of 30 feet, *and never spoke again.*”<sup>258</sup>

At about this time, Sir John White Cooper described him in his diary:

“He was a tall, stern-looking, but most amiable man. I remember on his being called upon to return thanks for his health being proposed; he got up, stammered, hesitated, and at last exclaimed: ‘By G-d, I’d rather lead a forlorn hope than make a speech, *I can’t do it!*’ and sat down amidst uproarious applause.”<sup>259</sup>

Now an elderly man, his health was suffering, a legacy of the malaria he had contracted all those years ago in Walcheren.

“It was at this time that Captain Sir John Kincaid came face to face with his other Waterloo, in the person of his housekeeper. Miss Louisa Frisbee, obliged by the early death of her father, a silversmith, to earn her own living, and presuming upon her employer’s substance, spotted what she thought was her opportunity to escape a life of genteel servitude. Her methods to induce Kincaid to make her his wife can only be guessed at, his heart having been won fifty long years before by a dark-eyed Spanish child of fourteen. Faithful to her memory to his death, it can only be assumed that ill-health, loneliness, a constant round of prison inspections necessitating much tedious travel, and old age combined to render him easy prey to a determined and ambitious woman. Whatever the truth of it, they were married on Wednesday, 19 March, 1862. Kincaid had four weeks to live.”<sup>260</sup>

<sup>258</sup> *Report of Inspectors of Factories to Her Majesty’s Principal Secretary of State of the Home Department for the Half Year Ending 31 October 1855*, Her Majesty’s Stationery Office, London, 1856, page 44.

<sup>259</sup> *The Rifle Brigade Chronicle for 1884*, A Reminiscence by Major Willoughby Verner, London, 1885, page 125.

<sup>260</sup> *A Most Gallant Soldier*, M. Congreve Carnegie.







## CHAPTER NINE

# THE LOSS OF KINCAID

*Associated Genealogical Table Number 10 is at page 280.*

From 1797 the shadow of the industrial revolution continued to spread over Kincaid and the surrounding area. But another shadow was to fall over the next generations of Kincaids of Kincaid: the lack of male heirs.

In 1797, when Napoleon was mastering Europe and the future Sir John Kincaid of the Rifle Brigade was but ten years old, John Kincaid of Kincaid, the Laird who had founded Kincaid Printfields, the cotton printing works at Campsie, died in his eighties. He had nine children, four of them boys. The eldest son, John, succeeded his father at the age of 38. It seems that his wife, Janet Landels,<sup>261</sup> died soon after he became Laird. She was the daughter of Robert Landels of Robroyston and Agnes Kincaid, daughter of Agnes Nisbett and John Kincaid, the Laird who died in 1737, and so John and Janet were first cousins.<sup>262</sup>

Janet had two daughters, both of whom were named Elizabeth and died in infancy. On Janet's death, John married again, his new wife being Cecilia Lennox, youngest daughter of his neighbour William Lennox.<sup>263</sup> The feud was finally dead.

John was a real farming landowner.

“In his younger days, he had often held the plough and was a first-rate ploughman. He seemed to have been passionately fond of ploughing and even when well up in years and Laird of Kincaid, he could never resist an opportunity of taking the plough for a few furrows, just to keep in his hand.”<sup>264</sup>

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<sup>261</sup> *Service of Heirs*, volume XIV, number 10.

<sup>262</sup> *Hamilton and Campsie Testaments*, 28 June 1753.

<sup>263</sup> Letter from Olivia Brisbin to Alwyne Kincaid of Kincaid, 22 April 1963.

<sup>264</sup> Quoted in a letter from Olivia Brisbin to Alwyne Kincaid of Kincaid, 22 April 1963.



### The Rebuilding of Kincaid House

It was in about 1812 that John and Cecilia had Kincaid House rebuilt in a classical design by David Hamilton of Glasgow, incorporating part of the older building. Its form can be seen today.

“Kincaid House has a most imposing appearance . . . is four-square with four turrets . . . being of classical design, square mosaic portico front and famous hall over the fireplace of which used to hang the hereditary sword of the Constables of the Castle of Edinburgh . . . The sword is now, I believe, in Lennox Castle.”<sup>265</sup>

This sword may be the one referred to in Nisbet's *A System of Heraldry*, although then it was said to be in the possession of Thomas Kincaid the diarist, son of Thomas Kincaid, the Edinburgh surgeon:

“There is an old broadsword, belonging to some of the families of the Name of Kincaid, upon which were the [Kincaid] arms with the Castle with these words:  
Wha will persew, I will defend  
My Life and Honour to the End. 1552.”<sup>266</sup>

During the rebuilding of Kincaid House, an irretrievable disaster occurred.

“Miss Lennox's claim to the ancient earldom of Lennox brought this family [Kincaids] into prominence, owing to a Kincaid being heir presumptive to the Woodhead estate, and genealogists such as Burke and others applied to them for their family tree and history. It then transpired that many of their family papers had been destroyed by a fire at Cannerton, where they had been stowed away while tradesmen were in possession of Kincaid House, engaged in the building of a new mansion.”<sup>267</sup>

We do not know what was lost. No doubt portraits of Kincaids of Kincaid dating back many years were destroyed and it would seem almost certain that papers and records, which exist nowhere else, were lost for good. The fire may well have contributed to the gap in records of Kincaids between 1280 and 1447.

Cecilia had three brothers and two elder sisters, so it seemed that there would be no lack of heirs to the Lennox estates. But such things are not as simple as they often seem. By 1811 all three brothers and one sister were

<sup>265</sup> Letters from Major General William Kincaid to Mrs Robert Kincaid, Seattle, Washington, 1899-1901.

<sup>266</sup> *A System of Heraldry*, Alexander Nisbet, Edinburgh 1816, volume II, chapter VIII, page 420.

<sup>267</sup> *The Parish of Campsie*, John Cameron, J.R.Publications, Kirkintilloch, 1892, page 183.

dead, leaving sister Margaret as the Chief of Lennox. She was a spinster and it now seemed certain that the Lennox estates would pass to the Kincaids.

### Closure of Kincaid House

John's heir was John Lennox Kincaid who was born in 1802 and married Frances Maxwell Cunningham. In 1831 he succeeded his aunt as Chief of the Lennox and changed his surname to Kincaid-Lennox. In 1832 he succeeded his father as Kincaid of Kincaid and the following year when he matriculated his arms, he is described in the Lyon Register as:

“John Lennox Kincaid Lennox of Woodhead and Kincaid esquire, heir of Line and Entail and in possession of the estates of Woodhead and Kincaid in the county of Stirling and legal representative of both these families ...”<sup>268</sup>

The Kincaid and Lennox arms were quartered and modified so that for the first time since the 14<sup>th</sup> century, there was no Edinburgh Castle in the arms of Kincaid of Kincaid – an ominous portent indeed.

The new Laird of Woodhead and Kincaid decided that a more grandiose family home was required. Woodhead was well past its prime and Kincaid House was a modern building and not sufficiently large or imposing. In 1837 he set about building Lennox Castle in a dominating position above the Campsie valley, close to the old house of Woodhead:

“By far the noblest building in this parish or indeed in this part of the country is Lennox Castle, the seat of John L. Kincaid-Lennox Esq, who is proprietor of nearly half the land in the parish. This magnificent mansion, which is situated on the brow of the South Brae, near the position of the old house of Woodhead, was commenced in 1837 and is now [May 1841] just finished. The character of this building, which is in the boldest style of the old Norman architecture, from a design by Mr David Hamilton of Glasgow, harmonises well with its lofty and picturesque situation, nearly 500 feet above the level of the adjoining valley, and with the bold and striking scenery around.”<sup>269</sup>

In the process he seems, perhaps not surprisingly, to have emptied and closed Kincaid House; it would have been neither practical nor economic to run the two simultaneously. Kincaid House slowly fell into disrepair and by 1913 was partly a ruin, let to a tradesman for £100 per year.

The closure and neglect of Kincaid House seem to have raised a good deal of hatred amongst Campsie locals. It was probably then that rumours grew.

<sup>268</sup> *Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland*, folio 94.

<sup>269</sup> *The Statistical Account of Stirlingshire*, by Ministers of Respective Parishes, 1842, page 246.



One stated that between 1820 and 1830 the Kincaid of Kincaid died without heir and that the estate was inherited by a cousin, a merchant in Calcutta. Another rumour had it that not one drop of Lennox or Kincaid blood flowed in the veins of the heir to both estates.

“When I talked to the old gardener [at Kincaid House] and said that I would like to lease it, he said, ‘Ah! I could have died happy had I seen a Kincaid again in the old place.’”<sup>270</sup>

The rumours were untrue. For at least 400 years Kincaid had been passed from father to son or from brother to brother or, in one instance, from father to daughter. There can be no doubt that John Lennox Kincaid-Lennox was the head of the family in blood as well as name. Contrary to these rumours, this Laird was most interested in his estates and family history. It seems that he tried to prove his right to the Lennox peerage, which had lapsed some generations before. Whether he would have succeeded is questionable, but in 1857, his only son John, who appears to have survived the slaughter and sickness of the Crimea, was killed at Thebes in Egypt, only 26 years of age, a captain in the 12<sup>th</sup> Lancers<sup>271</sup> and unmarried. John Lennox Kincaid-Lennox was left with three daughters, a broken heart and huge debts.

“My great grandfather had wasted most of his fortune building Lennox Castle, so when my father came into the property [in 1914] there was only heavy mortgages and debts – hence the sale of Lennox.”<sup>272</sup>

Two years later John was dead and for only the second time since at least 1447 the Kincaid of Kincaid succession descended through a female heir.

### **The Lack of Male Heirs**

Margaret Kincaid-Lennox also knew heartache. She married George Augustus Frederick Percy Sidney Smythe, the Viscount Strangford, but his lifeline was not as long as his name for he died a fortnight after the wedding. In 1861, two years after inheriting the combined estates, Margaret remarried. Her second husband was the Honourable Charles Spencer Bateman-Hanbury, younger brother of Lord Bateman. A change of name was essential and the couple became Mr and Mrs Hanbury-Kincaid-Lennox. They had no children.

<sup>270</sup> Letters from Major General William Kincaid to Mrs Robert Kincaid of Seattle, Washington, 1899-1901.

<sup>271</sup> *Army Lists*.

<sup>272</sup> Letter from Alwyne Kincaid of Kincaid to Olivia Brisbin, 11 February 1960.



Children of John Lennox Kincaid of Kincaid (1802-1859)  
(Left to right) *Frances, Margaret, Cecilia and John*

Margaret's sister, Cecilia, had previously married William John Peareth from Gateshead in Co. Durham. They had two sons, John Lennox Peareth and William George Peareth. On Margaret's death, Cecilia inherited the Lennox and Kincaid estates, and in 1913 General William Kincaid visited her at Lennox Castle:

"We were asked to lunch and drove up to the Castle from the station which was an hour from Glasgow. I found a very large party there. Old Mrs Kincaid Peareth [Cecilia] who, since she inherited the place from her sister, is now Mrs Lennox . . . and is now the Chatelaine. Her son, Mr Peareth, was away at another estate that they inherited from his father, a large landed proprietor. His brother, who lives with his mother, is the one who takes an interest in family history. He is now writing a pedigree from the leases and charters, but finds great difficulty in



tracing the branches through the troublous times of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. His interest is entirely with the Kincaids, for there is no doubt that their branch of the Lennox family is illegitimate. It would be impossible to prove their right to the Lennox peerage now although old Mr Kincaid might have proved it 80 years ago, but abstained after the death of his son in Egypt.”<sup>273</sup>

### The Loss of Kincaid

Cecilia died in 1914 and the succession passed to her elder son, William. Having been expelled from Eton, he had devoted his life to horses, building magnificent stables and breeding thoroughbreds, one of which is said to have won the Grand National.<sup>274</sup> On inheriting, William George Peareth changed his name by deed poll to his mother's maiden name, Kincaid-Lennox. He was heir to estates all over the British Isles. In Scotland he inherited Kincaid House, the family home of the Kincaids; Woodhead, the old estate of the Lennox family; and Lennox Castle, the magnificent but recently-built seat of the Kincaid-Lennoxes. In England he was heir to estates in Durham and Herefordshire. It was many centuries since the Kincaid of Kincaid had owned so much land, but there were the debts from the building of Lennox Castle. Moreover, in 1914 the prospects of the landowner were drastically different from those in earlier centuries. The voice of the unions was forcing up industrial wages while improving their members' living and working conditions, with the result that it was becoming increasingly difficult for landowners to find domestic and land workers unless they were well away from large towns or could afford to offer wages that were attractive in comparison with industry.

Then, on 28<sup>th</sup> June of that year, the heir to the Austrian throne was assassinated in Sarajevo, Serbia. By turns Austria, Russia, Germany and France were sucked into hostilities and then, on 4<sup>th</sup> August, Britain declared war on Germany. Men went off to fight and were killed in their droves in the mud and muddle of Flanders, while women found work in the munitions factories. In 1917 the Russian revolution overthrew the Tsar, murdering the royal family, the aristocracy and the landed gentry. In 1918, there were mutinies in the German navy and uprisings in many cities. After the final defeat of Germany on 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 Europe was dramatically different. In Britain, too, the social and political landscape was drastically altered; the workers had a voice, higher pay and less respect for the upper classes, while the Labour movement had become a powerful political party,

<sup>273</sup> Letter from Major General William Kincaid to Professor Trevor Kincaid of Seattle, c. 1900.

<sup>274</sup> Details taken from a letter from Alwyne Kincaid of Kincaid to Olivia Brisbin.

which was to come to power in 1924. The fate of the old-fashioned landowner was clear.

In 1914 William George Peareth Kincaid-Lennox had inherited several large estates and considerable debts and by 1918 it must have been clear that the upkeep of one estate alone would have been a precarious business, so it is not surprising that some of these estates were sold. Nor is it surprising that the first to go were the Scottish lands: surrounded by industrial expansion, neither aesthetic nor financial prospects were bright. By 1922, Lennox Castle had become a large hospital, Kincaid House a hotel. Despite this alienation of the historic lands of Kincaid and Woodhead, William Kincaid-Lennox retained respect for there is a stone on the side of the Lennox vault in Campsie churchyard which was:

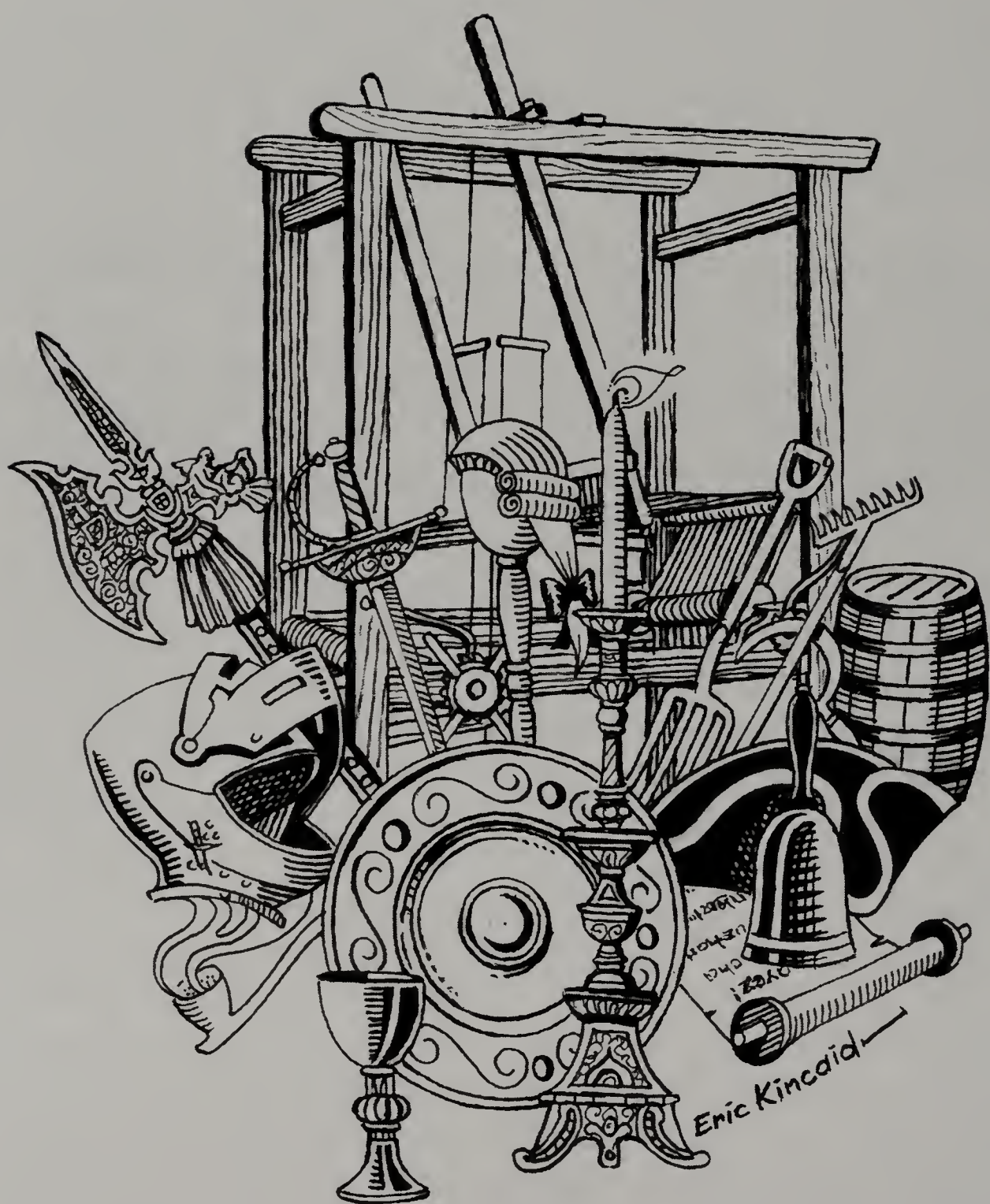
“... erected by friends in Campsie in memory of a great laird William George Peareth Kincaid-Lennox 1862-1934.”<sup>275</sup>

And so Kincaid passed out of the possession of the Kincaid family after an ownership of at least six centuries. The seal was finally, and perhaps belatedly, set on the change from landowner to public servant.

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<sup>275</sup> *Monumental Inscriptions in West Stirlingshire*, John Fowler Mitchell and Sheila Mitchell, The Scottish Genealogy Society, 1973, page 70.





## CHAPTER TEN

# MINISTERS, MERCHANTS AND PUBLIC SERVANTS

Thus far, the story of the Kincaids has been concerned with the chief landowners in Kincaid and Auchenreoch, in Falkirk and Linlithgow and around Edinburgh. But it would be a mistake to think of landowning as the majority interest of family members. Land descended in general to the eldest son, and younger sons got little or nothing. More often than not, there were several younger sons in a family and, although to start with many remained at home either in a useful capacity or as hangers-on, most needed to leave the family home and pursue a career divorced from the land.

Many younger sons went into the church, but more gravitated towards Edinburgh and Glasgow to become medics, lawyers, merchants, artisans and craftsmen in a wide variety of trades. During the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Kincaids were found in Scottish armies and, after the Act of Union in 1707, in the British Army and Royal Navy. There were public servants, too – bailies, councillors, town officers and procurators. Other Kincaids were found in the Royal Household.

### Ministers of the Church

According to a stateman of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century:

“Two-thirds of the business of Scotland was related to the business of the Church.”<sup>276</sup>

The church was a major factor in Scottish life, so it may seem rather surprising that over the two centuries from 1480 to 1680 so few Kincaids

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<sup>276</sup> *A History of Scotland*, J.D. Mackie, Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, 1969, page 247.



are on record as holding church posts. But this may not be as abnormal as it may appear, for in 1567 there were only 257 ministers for 1080 churches. Although by the 17<sup>th</sup> century the clergy were all university-educated, well-paid and men of high social standing, the church was not a safe career in those centuries that saw the Reformation, the Counter-Reformation, the struggle between Catholic kings and Presbyterianism, Cromwell, the Restoration and the Revolution of 1688. Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Episcopalians and Covenanters all struggled for supremacy. Conflict was constant, armed conflict frequent. Ministers were often dispossessed of their living and turned out of their homes, with their families, at a moment's notice, sometimes in severe winter weather. Many ministers were banned from preaching and hunted down when they continued to do so. This was a career only for those with a strong conviction; it was not the comfortable living that we see today portrayed in Jane Austen costume dramas.

We first hear of a Kincaid in a church position when George Kincaid was Baillie of the monastery of St Cross in Edinburgh in 1494 and Senior Baillie in 1498. The church then was Roman Catholic, acknowledging the Pope as its head. However, the Church was corrupt: unworthy promotions were made, many priests were uneducated and the maximisation and enjoyment of material wealth was more important to most clergy than their religion. Protestant doctrines of Lollardism, Lutheranism and Calvinism began to infiltrate from the Low Countries, Germany and Switzerland, and the break in England in 1534 between Henry VIII and Rome provided international support for the Protestant movement in Scotland. The Treaty of Berwick in 1560 gave them power and with three Acts the new Scottish Parliament destroyed the Roman Catholic church in Scotland. Henceforth there would be no bishops, ministers were to be elected by their congregations and clergy were to be properly educated. The mass was outlawed and a new Calvinist Confession of Faith adopted. By 1563 the General Assembly, under a moderator, was established.

George Kincaid of the St Cross monastery would have died before the struggle became serious, but in any case Scottish monasteries and convents were not suppressed at the Reformation as they were in England: they had been showing a lack of vitality for many decades before 1560 and they simply withered through lack of recruitment.

The fall of Catholicism from its central position in Scotland might have weighed heavily on John Kincaid who was Super Prebend of Lymnolar under Ross Cathedral in 1548, and on Henry Kincaid, who may have been John's son, even though it did not affect their positions. Despite the rapid conversion of many Lowland areas, there remained devout Catholic



communities, particularly in the north-east, where many clan chiefs adhered to the old religion and where Catholic influence remained strong until at least 1638,<sup>277</sup> and in the islands – no Protestant minister set foot on the Hebrides until 1609.

“Henry Kincaid was parson at Lymnolar at the Reformation and retained the temporalities; he was still parson in 1584 and disposed of certain teinds to Munro of Foulis in 1607. There is no evidence that he conformed to Protestantism.”<sup>278</sup>

Alexander Kincaid was recorded as vicar of Burra and Bressay in the Shetlands in 1560 and again in 1568. In 1580 he was servitor to the Bishop and the Earl of Orkney. He died in 1587. Another Alexander Kincaid was vicar of Walls in the Shetlands between 1590 and 1611. Both Alexanders were probably Roman Catholics.

It is more likely that William Kincaid, who was vicar of Campsie and Antermoney when he died in 1576, was a Presbyterian, as was George Kincaid MA, a son of Edward Kincaid, burgess of Edinburgh, and his wife Mariota Purdie. He was:

“Transferred from Whiterne in 1599, Stoney Kirk also being in charge; transferred to Mochrum, Parish of Wigtown, and Longcastle, 2 August 1608.”<sup>279</sup>

In 1628, he married Jean McCulloch and they had a daughter Margaret who married Michael McKie in Kirkland of Wigtown in 1635. He was transferred to the parish of Kirkmaiden-in-Fairnes, but by 1626 was back at Mochrum, where he continued for many years.

“He was deprived by the Synod for ‘insufficiencie’ when he was nearly eighty years of age, a sentence which the General Assembly considered unjust, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1642.”<sup>280</sup>

The Roman Catholic church in Scotland may have lost its power in 1560, but it was not long before the Counter Reformation hit back under Mary Queen of Scots and James VI. In 1571, Episcopacy was re-introduced, although the General Assembly attacked the re-appointment of bishops. There followed 30 years of struggle between James VI and the Presbyterians, and the struggle was continued by him after he became James I of England.

<sup>277</sup> *The New Penguin History of Scotland*, R.A. Houston and W.W.J. Knox, Penguin Books, London, 2001, page xxxix.

<sup>278</sup> *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, edited Hew Scott, Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh, volume VII, page 45.

<sup>279</sup> *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, edited Hew Scott, Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh, 1917, volume II, page 370.

<sup>280</sup> *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, edited Hew Scott, Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh, 1917, volume II, page 370.



Charles I, too, sought to unstitch Protestantism in both England and Scotland by introducing unpopular measures which smacked of 'popery' so, when he set up his standard to start the Civil War in England, a Scots army joined the English parliamentarians, not for any political end, but to preserve the protestant religion in England and Ireland. James Kincaid of Kincaid rode with this army and was paid £40 for his horse and £20 13 4d for his charges.<sup>281</sup> And it was to this army that Thomas Kincaid was appointed a brigade surgeon.

The highly devolved Presbyterian church that gained religious, and some political, power in 1560 was severe and somewhat narrow in its outlook. It was well placed to regulate local behaviour and administer punishment. Among its introductions was the 'stool of repentance' on which sinners were to stand while being denounced by the minister in front of the congregation for such crimes as fornication, adultery, drunkenness and non-observance of the sabbath. It was on such a stool that James Kincaid of Kincaid, over a century later, was rebuked for giving orders to his groom to feed his horse on a Sunday.<sup>282</sup> The power of the Presbyterian Church is further illustrated by the punishment meted out to Captain Alexander Kincaid for a purely political act:

"Edinburgh 14 December 1650 post meridian: The Commission of the General Assembly having heard the petition of [amongst others] Captane Alexander Kincaid, acknowledging their sense of and sorrow for their accession to the late unlawful Engagement against the Kingdome of England, and desiring to be received to publict satisfaction for the same, Therefore they do refer the said Captane Alexander Kincaid [and others] to the Presbyterie of Perth, to labour with them for bringing them to a further sense of their aforesaid offences, with power, ipon sufficient evidences of their repentance, to prescribe and cause receave them to publict subscription according to the order appointed; and thereafter to take their subscription to the Declaration enjoyned to be subscriber by Ingagers, and to admit them of the Solemn League and Covenant. 2 October 1650 Remonstrance of the Provincial Assembly of Glasgow and Ayr to the Committee of Estates. Suscribitur, Thomas Wylie, Moderator, Mr Francis Kincaid, Cl. Syn."<sup>283</sup>

This Captain Alexander Kincaid could have been the man who is recorded as serving Charles I in Ireland in 1646.<sup>284</sup> This would certainly have been seen as an unlawful engagement, particularly by a church that had supported the Scottish government's despatch of an army to fight against Charles I

<sup>281</sup> *Charters and Documents Relating to Glasgow*, volume I (1175-1649), page 442.

<sup>282</sup> *The Parish of Campsie*, John Cameron, JR Publications, Kirkintilloch, 1892, page 237.

<sup>283</sup> *The Records of the Commissions of the General Assemblies of the Church of Scotland 1650-1652*, edited by James Christie, 1909.

<sup>284</sup> See Chapter Seven.



in England. If it was he, then he would have been a Jacobite and would not have taken kindly to the Commission's ruling. He probably returned to Ireland, where he made a will in 1661.

It was about this time that Robert Kincaid was born, probably the son of John Kincaid of Auchenreoch and Agnes Buchanan.<sup>285</sup> He gained his master's degree (MA) at Glasgow in 1658 and was minister at Barnwell in 1661. Barnwell is in Ayrshire and if he remained there he would have experienced the nightmare of the Highland Host. In 1662, the monarchy was restored after the death of Cromwell, and Charles II lost little time in opposing the hold Presbyterianism had re-established over Scotland. He reappointed bishops and enacted legislation to the effect that no minister, who had not been appointed by a bishop, could retain his living. However, more than 217 ministers refused to obey and they were replaced. Penalties against the non-conformists were increased: seeking ministrations from ousted ministers brought severe penalties, and even the absence from Church on three successive Sundays incurred a fine. The sums extracted from these and other offences were huge: in Renfrewshire alone £36,800 Scots were due.

The money lay uncollected. In 1678, the government of the King:

“Loosed on the South West, particularly upon Ayrshire, the Highland Host, a body of 6000 Highlanders and 3000 Lowland militia to live in free quarters while they extracted the bonds and disarmed the country. Not only was the land looted but, as a result of fines and forfeitures, estates changed hands.”<sup>286</sup>

When the Catholic James II was replaced by William of Orange, two hundred Episcopalian ministers, with their households, were ejected from their livings on Christmas Day in severe winter weather; and in 1690 William abolished the bishops in Scotland, approved Presbyterianism, expelled the remaining Episcopalian ministers and restored those ministers ousted in 1662.

Whether Robert Kincaid was one of the Presbyterian ministers ousted in 1662 and who continued to practise under threat of penalties, or whether he was one of the 664 ministers ousted in 1688, is not known. He was minister of Barniel in Glasgow on his death in 1691, which suggests he was not an Episcopalian, but the ousting of Episcopalian ministers was not complete until 1701 and, as he is recorded as deserting the charge at the revolution, he may well have been Episcopalian rather than Presbyterian.

Kincaid ministers were certainly among the expelled Episcopalians. One was:

<sup>285</sup> *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, edited Hew Scott, Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh, 1920, volume III, page 77.

<sup>286</sup> *A History of Scotland*, J.D. Mackie, Penguin Books Ltd, Harmondsworth, 1969, page 238.



“John Kincaid, MA Glasgow. Minister of Terreglas which belonged to Linchiden College in 1688. Outed at the revolution and deprived by Act of Parliament restoring the Presbyterian ministers in 1690.”<sup>287</sup>

And the other was:

“Robert Kincaid, son of Thomas Kincaid of Warriston, MA (Edinburgh 29 June 1677); served the church at Walston, Presbytery of Biggar from 28 April 1686 to being deprived by Act of Parliament 25 April 1690 restoring Presbyterian ministers.”<sup>288</sup>

So, for over 200 years, Catholic, Presbyterian and Episcopalian Kincaids served the church in Scotland in small numbers. Religion does not seem to have played a vital role in the family as a whole, but perhaps the question of whether ministers should be appointed by bishops or elected by the congregation did not seem as important to them as it did to others.

### Merchants and Artisans

Perhaps religion was of less importance to Kincaids than commerce. Certainly the number of Kincaids engaged in business far surpasses those serving the church. By the 1550s, landed families were being forced to pay higher taxes and feuars faced rising rents. By contrast, the merchants and incorporated guildsmen were growing increasingly wealthy, while religious changes affected them less than it did many others because their guilds were under the protection of particular saints and they could afford to endow their parish churches lavishly.

It is about this time of growing economic profit that we have the first record of a Kincaid in business: in 1532, Patrick Kincaid is recorded as “master brewer”.<sup>289</sup> He became “special brewer to the King in Leith”, but went out of business in 1542 on the death of James V.<sup>290</sup> Perhaps it was just the change of kings that put him out of business temporarily, but he bounced back and in 1546 he is recorded as “master brewer to my Lord Governor”.<sup>291</sup>

In the same line of business, Edward Kincaid, maltman in Edinburgh, seems to have been involved in the struggle between the supporters (or rebels) of various factions during the chaos that existed throughout the minority of

<sup>287</sup> *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, edited Hew Scott, Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh 1917, volume II, page 296.

<sup>288</sup> *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae*, edited Hew Scott, Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh 1915, volume I, page 263.

<sup>289</sup> *Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh 1901, volume VI, page 95.

<sup>290</sup> *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, volume XVII.

<sup>291</sup> *Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh 1901, volume VII, page 441.



James VI for, in 1573, he was given a remission for taking part with the rebels in Edinburgh, before the Hamiltons and Gordons made their peace in the “Pacification of Perth”.<sup>292</sup>

Other maltmen, possibly his sons and grandsons, are recorded in Edinburgh and later in Glasgow where Thomas Kincaid, one of these maltmen, was wounded after a fight in 1606.

Thereafter, the number of Kincaids in business as merchants in Edinburgh and Glasgow increased dramatically, but there were many more who followed a specific trade: mealman, bellman (town crier), hammerman (armourer), mason, gardener, tailor, ship’s carpenter, goldsmith, flesher, smith, periwig-maker, tobacconist, chandler and weaver. There were skinnners too and Thomas Kincaid was Deacon of the Skinners in Edinburgh in 1683.<sup>293</sup>

Before the 1690s, businesses were very small and exports were very limited, constrained by a shortage of capital, confidence and shipping. Scotland remained very much a rural society with, in 1650, only 3.5 per cent of the population living in towns, making a total urban population of only 30,000. Thereafter, urbanisation was so rapid that by 1800 Scotland was one of the five most urbanised countries in western Europe. Both before and after the accelerating urbanisation, many of the merchants became wealthy and formed an urban elite in the craft guilds, entry of which was by wealth.

Many of the trades pursued by Kincaids still exist, but one does not. In the religious turmoil of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries there existed the trade of witch pricker and it was a trade of some standing. Witchcraft was seen as a major threat to society by individuals who had “bonded themselves to Satan”, thereby possessing themselves of demonic powers. Although witches had for centuries been ostracised and attacked, it was King James VI who initiated the first national witch hunt in 1590, forcing assizes to return guilty verdicts. After the killings of the 1590s, prosecutions remained constant for many years before peaking in the period from 1643 to 1649. After 1662, there was a steady decline as people became increasingly more sceptical about the demonic powers of witches. The scale of these hunts can be judged from the 350 commissions issued to arrest suspects in 1649 alone.

“In 1661 John Kincaid, witch pricker, was, in addition to receiving his professional fee, voted by the town council of Forfar the freedom of their burgh. Kincaid occupied a comfortable residence in the village of Tranent, Haddingtonshire. He was ‘common pricker’ to the court of the Justiciary, and his circuit of employment extended from Aberdeen to the English border. His fees of service were augmented as increased his professional reputation. At an

<sup>292</sup> *Register of the Privy Seal of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, volume VI, number 1876.

<sup>293</sup> *Records of Edinburgh*.



early stage of his career, he received from the kirk session of Stowe in 1649, £6 for the 'brodding of Margaret Denham', a reputed witch. As Kincaid never failed to discover the devil's mark, all who were pricked by him were sentenced to perish at the stake. At length he ventured to prosecute his vocation on his own account, by seizing people unaccused and subjecting them to his tortures. This new effort was happily restrained, the Justiciary court sentencing him to imprisonment. After experiencing nine weeks detention, he was liberated by the Privy Council on the promise that he would not prick further without a judicial warrant."<sup>294</sup>

Witch prickers were used to prove whether a person was a witch. By sticking pins into various parts of the skin, the pricker would eventually come upon a place that appeared insensitive to pain and this was called the devil's mark. Obviously the longer this process went on, the more exhausted the victim would become until he was incapable of reacting, thus giving proof that he was a witch. A pricker, therefore, could not lose.

"In the General Register House are preserved the 'deposition' of John Kincaid and the 'confession' of Marie Haliburton. In his deposition Kincaid relates that, being at the village of Dirleton, 'a husband and wife, whose names were Patrick Watson and Marie Haliburton waited on him, desiring that they might be respectively examined by him, on account of their having long been suspect to be witches'. Under the hope of being vindicated from an evil report, both were destined to perish. Making an examination, Kincaid reported that in each case he had discovered 'the devil's mark'. After her husband's execution Marie Haliburton emitted a 'confession'. She acknowledged that 18 years before she had an illicit amour with the devil, when she had renounced her baptism."<sup>295</sup>

Dirleton is described as a picturesque village and one to delight the artist. Today its castle is a romantic ruin, but in the days of the witch-hunts it possessed a grim prison,

"... a pit reached from a vault below the chapel. The pit is only eleven feet square, its walls are the bare rock on which the castle stands, and there is no light except that which falls down the niggardly ventilation of the slanting flue. The castle once served as a prison for a party of witches. 'Witch-finder' John Kincaid had discovered the Devil's marks on them, and the unfortunate wretches, who were said to have confessed to attending a meeting with the Devil in the guise of a 'great black man' on Dirleton Green, were strangled and burnt at the stake."<sup>296</sup>

<sup>294</sup> *Social Life in Scotland*, Rogers, volume III, page 270.

<sup>295</sup> *Social Life in Scotland*, Rogers, volume III, page 306.

<sup>296</sup> *Edinburgh and the Lothians*, edited Theo Lang, Hodder & Stoughton, London, 1952, page 179.

Witch pricking had been a respectable trade for centuries before it was recognised for what it was and eliminated, but another disreputable trade exists today much as it did in those days. In 1655:

“Marie Kincaid kept a house of ill report and corrupted scholars and students”.<sup>297</sup>

No doubt she would have claimed, like her sisters of today, that she was performing a public service, but the real public servants would surely have disputed it.

### Public Servants

The Kincaids of Kincaid as landowning lairds were, de facto, members of the Scottish Parliament until the Act of Union at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Parliament consisted of the nobility, the clergy and (later) representatives from the burghs. The nobility consisted of a large body of landowners divided into a peerage and an untitled baronage, all tenants-in-chief with their own coats of arms and hereditary courts. These old established holders of ‘40 shilling lands of auld extent’ were part of the nobility and entitled to attend Parliament.<sup>298</sup>

“The laird [of Kincaid] attended Parliament as Deputy Constable in 1534.”<sup>299</sup>

Other Kincaid landowners may also have been entitled to attend because Kinkell, a small part of the Kincaid lands, was also a ‘40 shilling land’, as apparently was Warriston for, in December 1546, John Kincaid of Warriston was given licence:

“Making mention that he is of great age, weak of complexion and vexed with diverse infirmities and sickness, so that he may not goodly endure travel without danger of his life and increasing of his sickness; therefore our sovereign lady gives him licence to remain and byde at home during his lifetime; Provided always that the said John send one man for him . . . to the said oistis at all times when need be...”<sup>300</sup>

Kincaids also held many public offices. We have already noted that several Kincaids, including David Kincaid of Coates, Thomas his son and David his

<sup>297</sup> *Records of Edinburgh*.

<sup>298</sup> *A History of Scotland*, J.D. Mackie, Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, 1969, page 246

<sup>299</sup> *Scottish Arms*, R.R. Stoddart, William Patterson, Edinburgh 1881, page 79.

<sup>300</sup> *Register of the Privy Seal of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh 1936, volume III, folio 2058.



grandson, were Constables of Edinburgh Castle.<sup>301</sup> Other public posts were held too. The earliest holder to be recorded is Alexander Kincaid who was “bailie of Edinburgh” in 1525.<sup>302</sup> He was followed as a bailie [town magistrate] by Edward Kincaid, son of Thomas Kincaid of Coates, Constable of Edinburgh Castle, and maybe a relation of Alexander. Edward is mentioned as bailie in 1517, 1530, 1531, 1532 and 1542, and was a councillor in 1538.<sup>303</sup> Whether this was the same Edward who was Sheriff of Peebles in 1523 and 1530<sup>304</sup> is uncertain, although Peebles is only twenty miles south of Edinburgh. Another Edward Kincaid is recorded as Sheriff of Peebles in 1602.<sup>305</sup> Another bailie was Clement Kincaid (possibly Clement Kincaid of Coates) who, as bailie of the barony Bristo, caught a thief red-handed in 1594.<sup>306</sup>

William Kincaid was a royal and government special courier in the 16<sup>th</sup> century:

“11<sup>th</sup> March 1567. Mary Queen of Scots to Queen Elizabeth requesting safe conduct for Thomas Douglas and William Kincaid to France and back.”<sup>307</sup>

11<sup>th</sup> March 1572. Hunsdon to Burghley. I received yesterday your lordship’s letter of 28<sup>th</sup> of the last, and the second of this [month] ... the other by ‘Kynkade’ ...<sup>308</sup>

September 1582. Charges against Archibald Douglas ... [that] he sent William Kincaid with the letters and directions of the adversaries into France ... he directed for the safe convoy of such things as William Kincaid ‘returned’ with him to the behoof of the adversaries ...”<sup>309</sup>

There were legal notaries: Sir Luke Kincaid, probably the son of Thomas Kincaid of Kincaid (1540<sup>310</sup>); James Kincaid (1589, 1600, 1611<sup>311</sup>); and Alexander Kincaid (1621, 1623<sup>312</sup>). There were writers: Francis, son of Francis Kincaid who was Master of the Glasgow grammar school (1622,

<sup>301</sup> See Chapter Four.

<sup>302</sup> *Exchequer Rolls of Scotland*, edited George McNeill, HM General Register House, Edinburgh 1895, volume XV, page 192.

<sup>303</sup> Various entries in *Records of Edinburgh* and *Register of the Great Seal of Scotland*.

<sup>304</sup> *Calendar of Writs at Yester House*.

<sup>305</sup> *Calendar of Writs at Yester House*.

<sup>306</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1883, volume V, page 147.

<sup>307</sup> *Calendar of State Papers – Scottish Series 1509-1589*, Markham John Thorpe, London, 1858, page 244.

<sup>308</sup> *Calendar of State Papers Relating to Scotland*, edited William Boyd, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1905, volume IV, page 158.

<sup>309</sup> *Calendar of State Papers Relating to Scotland*, edited William Boyd, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, 1910, volume VI, 1910, page 175-176.

<sup>310</sup> Colonel David Milne Holme of Wedderburn Castle 1902.

<sup>311</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, volume III, page 458; volume VI, page 655; volume IX, page 671.

<sup>312</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, volume XII, page 576; volume XIII, page 824.

1651, 1682<sup>313</sup>); John Kincaid (1624, 1626, 1654<sup>314</sup>); James, writer in Stirling (1662, 1669<sup>315</sup>). Edward Kincaid was a “Gentlemen of the Guard” in 1616<sup>316</sup>; Robert Kincaid a town officer in Edinburgh in 1616; James Kincaid a treasurer at Linlithgow in 1670 and 1677<sup>317</sup>; and John Kincaid an advocate or barrister in 1678 and 1681.<sup>318</sup>

Francis Kincaid was master at the grammar school in Glasgow for many years.

“Will (master of the Grammar School) had a stipend of 400 merks yearly, and the like sum was at first paid to his successor, Francis Kincaid ... A sort of timetable, referring to the period of Kincaid’s mastership and giving six in the morning as the starting hour on some days, is printed in Dr Cleland’s History of the High School and it gives the impression of overstrained application. This may have tempted the youths to break loose occasionally, and may partially extenuate them for conduct causing complaint to the Town Council in 1610 against ‘scolleris and prentices’ skaith [damage] to the neighbours’ yards, breaking of trees and destruction of herbs and sown seeds, resulted from indulgence in these frolics, which were ordered to be stopped, and the master of the Grammar School was instructed to ‘ordane his scolleris to prepare their bows for the archerie for thair pastime.’... Kincaid continued master until 1681 when, ‘in respect of his infirmitie and old age’, he tendered his resignation, and the baillies and the regents of the College were asked to look out for a successor.”<sup>319</sup>

Francis Kincaid was certainly old at the time of his resignation. His son, Francis, is recorded as writer in 1620,<sup>320</sup> which suggests that the master of the grammar school must have been approaching 100 years of age when he tended his resignation in 1681. He died the following year.

The great Edinburgh surgeon, Thomas Kincaid,<sup>321</sup> was not the first successful Kincaid doctor. Alexander Kincaid graduated from Edinburgh University in 1601 as a doctor of medicine and it seems that he practised in Edinburgh throughout his life.

<sup>313</sup> From *Commissariat of Glasgow and Burgesses and Guild Brethren of Glasgow 1751-1846*.

<sup>314</sup> *Index to Edinburgh Register of Sasines*; and *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, second series, volume I, page 427.

<sup>315</sup> *Index to Register of Deeds*.

<sup>316</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, HM General Register House, Edinburgh, volume X, page 584.

<sup>317</sup> *Index to Register of Sasines*.

<sup>318</sup> *Register of the Privy Council of Scotland*, 3<sup>rd</sup> series, volume V, page 332; and *Index to Register of Deeds*.

<sup>319</sup> *Glasgow Memorials*, page 330.

<sup>320</sup> *Index to Kincaid Testaments*, Commissariat of Glasgow.

<sup>321</sup> See Chapter Four.



“Records include a case brought in 1632 by Alexander Kincaid, doctor of medicine, against a butcher who had been blocking the passage to Kincaid’s house with ‘all his filthie excrements of his beastis’.”<sup>322</sup>

He was well regarded but, in those days when medical practice was still in its infancy, not always successful:

“Saterdag at night my father (having beene all the day well as he used to be) found a little lowness when he went to bed and about midnight tooke a paine in his backe, whereby he could not rest that night; the nixt morneing, being Sunday Sept 27 he fell upon a little slumber about church tyme, so wee went all to church my mother excepted; but when wee returned we found him fallen in a kind of letargie, so that he could not move nor speake with difficultie discontinuat words. Presentlie wee sent for Drs. Kincaid [identified in a footnote as Alexander Kincaid, doctor of medicine, Edinburgh 1601] and Purvis, who applied ventoses [cupping glasses] and gave him a clister, whereby he was so restored ere night that about 10 a clocke he did give to us all who wer there his blessing in a powerfull manner . . . From that tyme forth he bettered until Teuseday 29 at 12 a clocke; from that againe his fever increased until Wednsday 30 at night, with paine in his right liske [groin] not without raving; from that until Thursday Octr 1 at 12 a clocke he became as at the first. And then his speech failed him altogether and continullie decayed until about 10 a clocke at night that he dyed.”<sup>323</sup>

On his death in 1649, Alexander Kincaid was described as “doctor of medicine, indweller in Edinburgh”.<sup>324</sup> He appears to have died a rich man, his net estate amounting to over £20,000. His testament was signed:

“... with my hand at the pen ... because I cannot wryt myself in respect of heavie and deadlie disease.”<sup>325</sup>

Another Alexander Kincaid (possibly his son) was an apothecary in Linlithgow in 1678. Another Alexander was a surgeon in Falkirk, who apprenticed his own son (yet another Alexander) to Thomas Inglis, wright, in 1742.

After the union of crowns in 1601 when James VI of Scotland became James I of England, the Royal Court spent most of its time in London rather than in Scotland. In fact, although James had promised the Scots on his accession to the English throne that he would revisit his native land every three years, he did not return to Scotland until 1670 and then stayed for only

<sup>322</sup> *Physicians, Surgeons and Apothecaries*, Helen Dingwall, Tuckwell Press, 1995.

<sup>323</sup> *Miscellany of the Scot*, The History Society, volume IX.

<sup>324</sup> *Edinburgh Testaments*.

<sup>325</sup> *Physicians, Surgeons and Apothecaries*, Helen Dingwall, Tuckwell Press, 1995.

twelve weeks. Many Scotsmen travelled south with the King, not only for court duties but also for the attractions of the much wealthier English capital. The English saw their new King as an alien and his followers as “beggarly Scotsmen”.

At least one Kincaid family travelled south to serve the King, the husband (whose name we do not know) to be a butler in the Royal Household, his wife Margaret to be a wet nurse to the royal children of Charles I. But with the execution of Charles, the Kincaids, along with many others, were dismissed without a pension to suffer severe hardship. In 1655 Margaret, with others, petitioned Parliament as one of:

“... the ancientest servants of the King’s children and attended them under several governors, by Parliament order, till they were settled under the Countess of Leicester, when we were dismissed. We then applied to Parliament for pensions, as allowed to the rest of our fellow servants and His Highness, before the expedition to Scotland, promised to assist us. On our petition, the Revenue Committee ordered us a small sum for our relief, but for 4 years we have had nothing, and are forced to earn our bread by hard labour, and beg to be settled like the rest of the servants.”<sup>326</sup>

As a result of this petition, Cromwell’s Revenue Committee ordered small sums for relief of servants who were “forced to earn their bread by hard labour”. Margaret Kincaid was granted five pounds.

While Cromwell was alive, these former royal servants were unlikely to be given anything more, but on the restoration of the monarchy, Margaret lost no time in petitioning again. Less than a month after King Charles II was received by immense crowds on landing in Dover, she petitioned him to present:

“... her son, Abraham Allen MA, to the rectory of Westmeane, Co. Hants, void by the death of Mr Bludworth. She was wet nurse to the Princess Royal, served the Princess Elizabeth for six years and the Duke of Gloucester nine years and is in pressing want. With reference thereon to Drs. Sheldon, Morley and Earles; their report in favour of the petition, and orders granting it, dated June 22 1660.”<sup>327</sup>

Abraham Allen is more likely to have been Margaret’s grandson, rather than son, because apart from the surname, we have record of a petition from Elizabeth Allen whose:

<sup>326</sup> *Calendar of State Papers (Domestic Series) 1655*, edited Mary Anne Everett Green, Longman’s, London, 1881, page 133, 19 April 1655.

<sup>327</sup> *Calendar of State Papers (Domestic Series) 1660-1661*, edited Mary Anne Everett Green, Longman’s, London, 1860, page 59, 19 June 1660.



“... father, Kinkid [presumably Butler Kincaid], was servant to the King's father and grandfather and died in the service of His Royal Highness and her mother gave suck to the Princess Royal and served the Duke of Gloucester nine years and also waited on the Princess Elizabeth.”<sup>328</sup>

The King wrote to the Electors of New College Oxford:

“The petition of Abraham Allen DD, stating that among his many children his tenth child, Abraham, is a child of the foundation in Winchester College and fit to be transferred at the next election and that being 18 will be superannuated at any other time after the next election and therefore praying letters recommendatory that he may be chosen to the first place contingently void after the next election, in consideration of the said Dr Allen's loyalty and sufferings and that his said son's maternal grandparents were faithful servants to the King's grandfather and father ... recommending the said Abraham Allen for election into the first place that will be contingently void after the next election in New College.”<sup>329</sup>

### Military

Although there were Kincaid soldiers in the 17<sup>th</sup> century fighting in Ireland,<sup>330</sup> it was not until after the Act of Union in 1707 and the establishment of a professional army and navy in peace and war, that we hear of Kincaids making military careers. The most famous of these was Sir John Kincaid of the Rifle Brigade who fought through the Peninsular War and at Waterloo with distinction.<sup>331</sup> His cousins, Malcolm and Kenneth Kincaid-Smith, served in the 9<sup>th</sup> Lancers and Royal Artillery respectively in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, while James Kincid, son of James and Sarah Kincid (and possibly the grandson of James Kincaid of Auchinreoch who was in Holland in 1688 and 1689) was a drummer in Major Gordon's company of the Third Regiment of the Scots Brigade in the service of the United Netherlands at Maastricht in 1724.<sup>332</sup> These four soldiers came from Scotland, but most of the other military Kincaids appear to have come from the Irish branches of the family.

<sup>328</sup> *Calendar of State Papers (Domestic Series) 1683*, edited Daniell and Bickley, His Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1934, page 272.

<sup>329</sup> *Calendar of State Papers (Domestic Series) 1683*, edited Daniell and Bickley, His Majesty's Stationery Office, London, 1934, page 274, August 1683.

<sup>330</sup> See Chapter Seven.

<sup>331</sup> See Spotlight IV.

<sup>332</sup> *History of the Scots Brigade in the Service of the United Netherlands 1572-1782*, edited by James Ferguson, T and A Constable, 1901, volume III, page 220.

John Kinkead served in the 38<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot (forerunner of the South Staffordshire Regiment) as an ensign in 1756,<sup>333</sup> being promoted to lieutenant in 1758, while Moses Kincaid (the first name suggests that he was from the Hillsborough branch) was an ensign in the 85th Regiment of Foot (the forerunner of the Shropshire Light Infantry) in 1780.<sup>334</sup> James Kinkaid was a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy in 1736.<sup>335</sup> John Kinkhead was listed in 1756 as a “superannuated gentlemen” of the Horse Guards who received £10 12 11d per year in half pay.<sup>336</sup> But it was the lure of service in exotic places of the expanding British Empire that drew many more Kincaids into public service abroad. That is the subject of Chapter Eleven.

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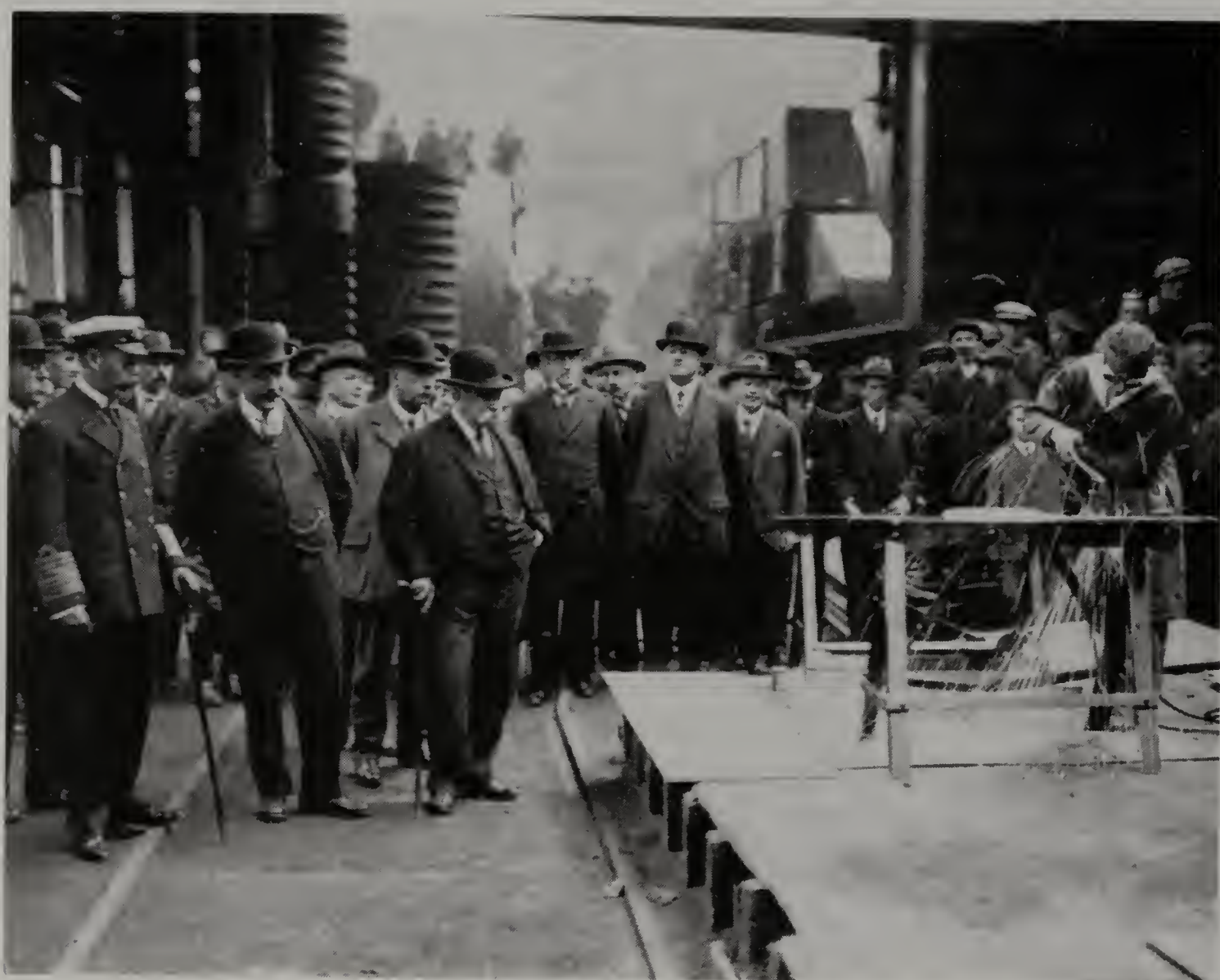
<sup>333</sup> *Army List (Irish Edition) 1756.*

<sup>334</sup> *Army List 1780.*

<sup>335</sup> *The Commissioned Sea Officers of the Royal Navy 1660-1815.*

<sup>336</sup> *Army List (Irish Edition) 1756.*





Visit of King George V to Kincaid's, 1917.

## **Spotlight V**

# **Shipbuilders on the Clyde**

The story of Kincaid's, the marine engineers in Greenock, has its roots in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when the wind was taken out of sail by the marine engine.

“This was the time and scene which fashioned John G. Kincaid, a man of pawky humour and business acumen, traveller, adventurer, and an engineer to the core.”<sup>337</sup>

After an early career with Caird's and in South America (detailed in Chapter Eight), he was only 28 when in 1868, in partnership with John Hastie and Robert Donald, he purchased the Clyde Foundry and Engine Works in East Hamilton Street in Greenock. After a return visit to South America, he returned with several orders for the new company, one of them a repeat order.

“The shipowner was perturbed at the loud, humming noise it emitted. Mr. Kincaid went to see him during a business trip to South America and came away with a repeat order. The owner, it seemed, had discovered the humming much to his advantage. It struck a chord with the natives who responded by dancing on the ship's deck. Naturally his ship was favoured with their trade and his rival's ship, which had a very ordinary, certainly unmusical engine, had to do without.”

John G. Kincaid was inventive. For many years the firm made feed water filters and heaters, and grease extractors, which he had patented in conjunction with William Crockatt. Another of John G.'s patents, a stern frame, was fitted to several vessels.

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<sup>337</sup> Unless otherwise stated, all quotes in this Spotlight are taken from *Kincaid's 1868-1968*, the centenary booklet, John G. Kincaid & Co Ltd, Greenock, 1968.



### The Clyde Foundry

The Clyde Foundry initially comprised a pattern shop, moulding shop, small smithy, turning shop and fitting shop. It had been used mainly for land installations, but with John G.'s background, it now turned to the sea for its income.

Light draught stern wheelers for use on shallow rivers abroad were a feature of the company in the early days. They appear strange little vessels by today's standards, but proved excellent pioneers in remote and difficult trading conditions.

"Mr. Kincaid invented a lifting and lowering gear which facilitated adjustment of the paddle wheel to accommodate variations in draught. Was it journalistic licence or a tribute to the skills of Kincaid's which prompted one Glasgow newspaper to report that they were working on two ships which were to float on heavy dew?"

But, from the outset, the company saw its future as specialists in the construction and installation of marine machinery. Initially, production was geared almost exclusively to single-cylinder, non-condensing engines to drive steam lighters.

In 1883, *The Engineer* published a supplement with engravings of a pair of disconnecting surface-condensing grasshopper paddle engines, which were fitted the previous year on board the tug steamer *Henrietta*, which was to be employed in Indonesia.

"The engines were constructed at Greenock by Messrs. Kincaid and Co., of the Clyde Foundry there . . . The engines are of the Grasshopper type which appear to be the best ever put into a tug boat, and apparently possessing very considerable advantages for all paddle boats. Its defect is that it is slightly heavier and takes up more room than oscillating engines, but on the other hand the cost of repair is very small, and it will work well when very much out of order. The system has been admirably carried out by Messrs. Kincaid, and the adoption of the surface condenser may be said to give the system a new lease of life."<sup>338</sup>

In 1873, John Hastie had left the company to concentrate on making auxiliary equipment on his own, and nine years later Robert Donald also retired. The firm became Kincaid & Co Ltd, and then John G. Kincaid & Co Ltd, with the founder and his brother, Charles S. Kincaid as partners. In 1906, John G.'s second son, James Scott Kincaid, joined the Board.

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<sup>338</sup> *The Engineer*, 27 April 1883.

### **The First World War**

Over this time, ships had been growing in size and power and, largely as a consequence, there had been great changes in the size and output of the company. In 1912, a large erecting shop was added to the west end of the Clyde Foundry. Its average clearance height was 42 feet 6 inches and it was equipped with cranes of up to 60 tons capacity. The floor, being of 15 inch concrete needed no strengthening to support the new equipment. In view of the heavy demands that were to be made on the company during the First World War, this was a timely development.

The war was only six months old when the company added another 30,000 square feet of floor space, a new funnel shop and two machine shop bays, and extended the smithy.

“The year 1916 saw further improvements of considerable extent. Two new boiler shops, a pattern shop and store, and a coppersmiths’ and plumbers’ shop were completed. The impressive war record of the company was recognised by King George V in a visit to the works on September 17, 1917 and again by the Prince of Wales on March 4, 1918. Ships engined by Kincaid made an undying name for themselves in the savagery of the two World Wars. Tremendous pressures were put on the resources of the Kincaid workforce and organisation in both wars to which they responded magnificently.”

The acquisition of the Arthur Street Works in 1919 gave the company much needed elbow room. However, a development of greater significance was at hand: the replacement of steam engines by diesel.

### **Steam Gives Way to Diesel**

The founder of the company died in 1924, and his son, James S. Kincaid, succeeded him as chairman. An authority on diesel engines, he was already playing a major role in the future direction the company was taking, being one of the first to appreciate the significance of the diesel engine in marine vessels. Kincaid’s had obtained a sub-licence from Harland & Wolff Ltd to build diesel engines of the Burmeister & Wain design, and their first such engine was completed in 1924 – a six cylinder, 630 mm bore, 1300 mm stroke, four cycle engine, developing 1150 brake horsepower at 85 rpm. But the increasing power of marine engines was demonstrated by a much later order for the largest marine diesel engine in the country: a twelve cylinder engine developing 27,600 brake horsepower. Other orders followed.

Although the company continued to build steam engines for many years, the last steam engine order being delivered in 1954.





### Kincaid's ships and engines

(Top) *'The Sultan of Trincanu', a stern wheeler built by Kincaid's*

(Bottom left) *Recreation by Kincaid's of Bell's 'Comet' of 1812*

(Bottom right) *Diesel engine assembly 1927*

“But it wasn't quite the last steam engine. One of the most eventful episodes in the Kincaid history was the building in 1962 of an engine which during test bed trials recorded a brake horsepower of 10 at 70 rpm. This was the engine which was to take the celebrated *Comet* from Greenock to Helensburgh at approximately 4.4 miles per hour. It was no mean achievement, for the *Comet* of 1962 was a replica of Bell's *Comet* of 1812, Europe's first practical steamboat. Recreating the engine involved considerable historical research and a considerable degree of ingenuity. The remains of the original engine were in the Science Museum at South Kensington [London], but because of the extreme brittleness of the metal, the Museum authorities would not grant permission to open the cylinder or valve casing for examination.”

In 1940, James S. Kincaid died and was succeeded as chairman by his brother Randall G. Kincaid, who was to remain in that post until his retirement, when he assumed the title of president.

The success of the diesel engine brought the decision in the early 1950s to concentrate marine engine production on the Burmeister & Wain range.



In 1953 a large new building was constructed in Arthur Street, and investment in new and replacement machinery in both sites continued to be made.

“Modernisation of plant and production methods has been a constant theme of the company throughout its history ... An impressive expertise has been developed over the years, not only in the building of marine engines but in the installation of ships’ engine rooms and of remote and automatic control systems ... The changes which have been witnessed since John G. Kincaid and his partners set out to build a business on a one acre site are vast and many. But one thing remains constant, the spirit and pride in craftsmanship acclaimed in the phrase ‘Engined by Kincaid’.”

### Nationalisation

Those words were written for the occasion of the centenary of the company in 1968. But time was running out. In 1972, the company was,

“... nationalised at the same time as the rest of the shipbuilding and heavy marine engineering industry in Great Britain. As the industry declined, British Shipbuilders closed facilities and combined companies within their control. Kincaid’s were amalgamated with Clark Hawthorn under the name Clark Kincaid Ltd. After a further period of contraction the Clark’s Wallsend-on-Tyne site was closed, leaving the Greenock site as the sole large-bore diesel engine builders in Great Britain.

On the break-up of British Shipbuilders, Clark Kincaid was the subject of a management buy-out. However, the company was short of capital and after a short time sold a controlling interest to the Norwegian group Kvaerner, who changed the name to Kvaerner Kincaid Ltd.

Further cut-backs saw the end of engine building and concentration on spares supply with the bulk of the buildings and plant being sold off. The Kvaerner group ... sold Kincaid’s to the Swedish firm SKV who in turn named the operation SKV Kincaid Ltd. SKV then moved the company to new premises at Inchinnan accompanied by further cuts in manufacturing, the bulk of the spares being brought in from the Far East and only finishing work being done on site.”<sup>339</sup>

The name of Kincaid still exists, but it has lost its former proud status.

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<sup>339</sup> Letter to the author from The Ballast Trust, 20 January 2003.





## CHAPTER ELEVEN

# EMPIRE

*Associated Genealogical Table Number 8 is at page 277.*

The expanding British Empire in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was an exciting place for young men of character and enterprise who were eager to leave home, and the increasingly stuffy Victorian society, for adventure in exotic countries abroad. Nowhere was this more true than in Ireland, where famine, armed unrest and dismal prospects led to a mass emigration of the people. Many sailed for the New World and a new life in the dynamic countries of North America, but others found their exit by joining the British Army, the Royal Navy, the Indian Civil Service or other bodies administering the Empire.

John Henry Kincaid, the land agent who managed Lord Palmerston's estates in Ireland,<sup>340</sup> had two sons (a third died young), and it must have seemed to them, by the time they were in their teens in the 1870s, that land owning and land management in Ireland was a dying business. And it must have seemed so to their father, too, when he had to retire to Dublin ten years later. Whether the decision was the father's or that of his sons is not clear, but both joined the Army.

The elder son, Charles Style Kincaid, spent most of his career in the Royal Irish Fusiliers, while the younger, William Henry Francis Style Kincaid, generally called Bill, gained a commission in the Royal Engineers. Both had distinguished careers, and each served much of his career in Africa.

### Egypt and the Sudan

Africa was still largely an unknown continent by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although the European nations had already carved it up and were trying both to hold their conquests and to administer them. The British had acquired the greatest stake and were dreaming of a railway to run through

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<sup>340</sup> See Chapter Seven.



British territory all the way from the Cape of Good Hope to Cairo. However, administering these huge tracts of land, much of them uncharted and inhabited by warlike tribes, was not an easy task, and the British Army was to fight eleven wars in Africa during the second half of the century.

At that time, Egypt was an independent province of the Turkish Empire. In 1876 the spendthrift Khedive of Egypt was pressurised to agree to the appointment of a British and French Controller-General of Finance to oversee the repayment of the hundred million pounds he had borrowed from French and British capitalists. This foreign control provoked an uprising under Arabi Pasha which Britain defeated by deploying military force and destroying Arabi's army at Tel-el-Kebir. The French, with one eye on Germany, opted out. But once in, Britain found it impossible to leave. The Khedive was restored to nominal authority and vague suzerainty remained vested in the Sultan of Turkey, but for the next quarter of a century the real ruler of Egypt was the British Agent and Consul General.

It was this maelstrom that John Henry's two sons entered. It was the younger who had the more brilliant career. Bill was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1880, and first saw action in the expedition in the Sudan to relieve General Gordon. The Sudan, which stretched 2000 miles south of its border with Egypt, was governed by Egypt, and in 1883 the Sudanese rebelled against this foreign rule. Led by the Mahdi, a Moslem fanatic, they destroyed the Egyptian army and spread death and destruction throughout the country. General Gordon was sent to evacuate the British from the Sudan, but on arrival decided that he could not abandon the country to the ravages of the Mahdi. He decided to stay and asked London for reinforcements.

London was not keen on this change of plan, but General Gordon, with his stern religious faith, his Bible-reading, his assaults on the slave trade, his charitable work and his successes in the Chinese wars, was a popular figure. Gladstone had to bow to popular pressure and, in September 1884, sent Lord Wolseley with a ten-thousand-strong force to relieve Gordon who was, by now, cut off in Khartoum.

The relieving force faced an 800-mile advance up the River Nile through largely uncharted country.

"Lord Wolseley [the Commander-in-Chief] had made his arrangements for pushing his troops up the Nile in whale boats, of which a large number were constructed for the purpose in England, and taken out for the use of the Expedition. Many of the Engineers were engaged throughout this long and tedious journey in repairing the damages which were constantly occurring to the boats, and were sent forward in advance along the river to establish depots for the purpose. Others had charge of the railway and the telegraph."<sup>341</sup>

<sup>341</sup> *History of the Corps of Royal Engineers*, Whitworth Porter, Institution of Royal Engineers, Volume 2, Chapter xxvi, page 74.

Lieutenant Bill Kincaid accompanied this relieving force and took part in the actions en route which led up to:

“... the victory at Kirkeban on February 1885, when General Earle’s column, consisting of the Black Watch and Staffordshire Regiment, surrounded the Arabs on a ridge and defeated them, although our loss was serious ... For his services, Lieutenant Kincaid received the medal with two clasps and the Khedive’s [of Egypt] bronze star.”<sup>342</sup>

The arrival of the relieving force, however, was too late. The city had fallen two days before and Gordon was dead.

Bill was promoted to captain in 1889 and it was not until 1896 that he saw more active service, this time with the Anglo-Egyptian army, under Sir Herbert Kitchener, to avenge the death of Gordon and to suppress the slave trade which the Dervishes had revived:

“He acted as Assistant Adjutant General to the infantry division. He took part in the surprise and defeat of the Dervishes, the battle lasting for two hours in which period the enemy lost 1000 of their number, including their commander, Hammuda, as well as 500 in prisoners. Captain Kincaid also shared in the operations which resulted in the occupation of Dongola.”<sup>343</sup>

He was mentioned in despatches and received the Egyptian medal with two clasps and the brevet of major.

In 1897 he was again Assistant Adjutant General in the advance to recover the Sudan for Egypt. He was present at the action at Abu-Hamed and the subsequent pursuit of the Dervishes, and was part of the ‘flying column’ between Berber and the Atbara River the following year.

“The flying column had covered no less than 118 miles in seven and a half days at the hottest time of the year. Only two Royal Engineers were privileged to share in this remarkable feat of endurance – Major W.F.H.S. Kincaid and Lieutenant G.F. Corringe, both of whom were serving on General Hunter’s staff.”<sup>344</sup>

He was again mentioned in despatches and received two more clasps to his Egyptian medal.

He took part in the brilliant cavalry reconnaissance and the victory at the Atbara when the Dervish army was routed. As Assistant Adjutant General to the Egyptian Division, he was also at Omdurman, where the Dervish army of

<sup>342</sup> *United Services Gazette*, Volume CLVII, Thursday 3 August 1911.

<sup>343</sup> *United Services Gazette*, Volume CLVII, Thursday 3 August 1911.

<sup>344</sup> *The Royal Engineers in Egypt and the Sudan*, Lt Col E.W.C. Sanders, Institution of the Royal Engineers, Chatham 1937, page 196.



50,000 was finally defeated. Major Kincaid's services were once again mentioned in despatches, and rewarded with the brevet of lieutenant-colonel, the 4<sup>th</sup> class of the Order of the Osmanieh, the British medal and two more clasps to his Egyptian medal. As with all foreign decorations, he had to apply to Queen Victoria for permission to wear the Order of the Osmanieh, and this was granted.

### **The Boer War**

So ended his service in Egypt and the Sudan. But war was brewing at the opposite end of the continent. The Boer settlers of Dutch origin in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State in South Africa felt threatened by the British, whose territories surrounded them, and when foreigners flocked into the Transvaal to work in the newly discovered goldfields of the Witwatersrand, they found their simple farming ideals under threat. As a result they refused the foreigners (or Uitlanders), who were mainly British, any political rights, even though they contributed some 95 per cent of the Boers' tax revenues. The Uitlanders protested to the British government who tried to find a peaceful solution, but the Boer leader, Paul Kruger, was intransigent, and the premier of the British Cape Colony, Cecil Rhodes, who had large financial interests in the Transvaal, wanted an excuse to take over the two Boer states. He engineered the disastrous Jameson Raid which finally convinced the Boers that they would have to fight for their survival. In October 1899, they crossed the frontier in several places.

The Boers had a force of 35,000 men, mostly mounted and heavy with artillery, which vastly outnumbered the British forces. They trapped two British battalions at Nicholson's Nek, Charles Style Kincaid among them, taking them prisoner, and then besieged Ladysmith, Mafeking and Kimberley. When a British army corps arrived in South Africa, it too met with initial reverses, but when Lord Roberts took command, with Kitchener as his chief of staff, the tide soon turned.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bill Kincaid was appointed to command the 7<sup>th</sup> Field Company Royal Engineers, and in addition acted as Intelligence Officer and was kept busy keeping Kimberley informed by pigeon post and runners. He took part in the advance to the relief of Kimberley, including the actions at Belmont, Enslin, Modder River and Magersfontein. At Paardeberg, early the following year, he played an outstanding part in the action:

“In the assault on the night of February 26-27, Lieutenant-Colonel Kincaid, with 30 sappers, accompanied the right of the second line of the assaulting party, the honour of leading which fell to the Royal Canadian Regiment. The advance began at 2.15 a.m. on February 27 and the Engineers after the opening

attack, proceeded to make a trench within a hundred yards of the enemy, and by 5.0 a.m. had succeeded in their task.”<sup>345</sup>

Another report stated:

“Among the [Engineers] Lieutenant-Colonel Kincaid and Captain Bolleau behaved with extraordinary gallantry throughout the operation, which it would be difficult to surpass.”

Later that year he was present at the operations at Poplar Grove, Driefontein and Witterbergen. Then on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1900, he left command of 7<sup>th</sup> Field Company to become Assistant Adjutant General, South Africa, a post he held until the end of the War. He was mentioned in despatches and gained the Queen’s Medal with five clasps and the King’s Medal with two clasps. He was awarded the brevet of colonel.

At the end of the War, he returned to England where he received his substantive promotion to colonel and was appointed Assistant Quartermaster General at Aldershot. He was appointed Companion of the Order of the Bath (CB) in 1906.

Late in his career, in 1904 when he was 43, he married Rosamund Humphreys with whom he was extremely happy, but they had no children. It is said that she refused to go to India when he was to have been posted there in the rank of major general, with the result that he refused this posting and retired. But he was back in uniform during the First World War.

His younger relatives remembered “Uncle Bill” as a man of undeviating integrity with a quiet sense of humour. He was also very generous to younger relatives, often tipping them lavishly but secretly.<sup>346</sup> When Sheila Kincaid, the daughter of his cousin, got married:

“... he gave me the most beautiful dinner service for twelve. I had not really heard about him and that was the only time I ever saw him – he just appeared at the wedding with this wonderful dinner service and I never saw him again.”<sup>347</sup>

He had a great affection for his elder brother, Charles Style Kincaid. “Uncle Charlie” is remembered as a good bridge player, flirtatious, but a rather cynical man of the world.<sup>348</sup> He was commissioned into the 107<sup>th</sup> Bengal Infantry (which later became the second battalion of the Royal Sussex

<sup>345</sup> *The Royal Engineers in Egypt and the Sudan*, Lt Col E.W.C. Sanders, Institution of the Royal Engineers, Chatham 1937, page 196.

<sup>346</sup> Eleanor Breese, interview with the author, March 1969.

<sup>347</sup> Sheila Uren (nee Kincaid), interview with the author, 13 April 1975.

<sup>348</sup> Eleanor Breese, interview with the author, March 1969.



Regiment) and was promoted to lieutenant the following year. In 1880 he transferred to the Royal Irish Fusiliers and went with them to Egypt in 1882, where he took part in the Battle of Tel-el-Kabir in which Arabi Pasha's army was decisively beaten as related earlier in this chapter. He accompanied the regiment to India the following year. In 1891, by then a captain, he was appointed adjutant of the third battalion in Ireland, before returning to the Far East in 1896 to rejoin his regiment which was by then in Burma. But trouble in South Africa was looming, and the battalion moved back to Egypt.

"In 1899 the First Battalion [Royal Irish Fusiliers] were at Alexandria [Egypt]. As the summer seemed uneventful, several officers had gone on leave. But in September word came that the Faughs were to sail for the Cape in a fortnight – in anticipation of the war that came a month later. While frantic preparations were being made in Alexandria, the absent officers, summoned by telegram, came hurrying back. All but two, Major Kincaid and Captain Silver, were able to rejoin before the Regiment sailed, and these two – both home on sick leave – soon appeared in South Africa."<sup>349</sup>

The battalion landed at Durban on 12<sup>th</sup> October and made its way to Ladysmith. By the 28<sup>th</sup> the Boers had almost encircled the town, besieging the 10,000 British soldiers who defended it.

"Wild stories were going about, some spread by arrivals from the south (to which the railway line was still, barely, open). Major Kincaid, Captain Silver and a new second lieutenant were among the arrivals."<sup>350</sup>

A large force from the town, led by a picked party of men from F company of the Royal Irish Fusiliers under Charles Kincaid, attempted to break the Boer stranglehold, but two battalions (including Kincaid's) were cut off at Nicholson's Nek and taken prisoner by the Boers. Kincaid became ill and was sent to a Boer hospital, where by great coincidence he met a German doctor who had treated him years before in Aix-la-Chapelle. The good doctor managed to obtain his release and, within a week, he was back in the British lines in Ladysmith. After this, he carried a livid scar on his temple, which despite an operation later led, it is alleged, to epileptic fits. Ladysmith was relieved in March the following year.

After the relief of Ladysmith, Charles was involved in the operations in the Transvaal in 1902, and was promoted lieutenant colonel in 1905. But ill-health, the result of the Ladysmith wound, dogged him and he retired in 1911. On his death in 1937, the obituary in the regimental magazine said that

<sup>349</sup> *The Royal Irish Fusiliers 1793-1968*, Marcus Cunliffe, Oxford University Press, 1970.

<sup>350</sup> *The Royal Irish Fusiliers 1793-1968*, Marcus Cunliffe, Oxford University Press, 1970.

he was a popular officer, a great lover of horses and hunted during his home leaves with three Hunts – the Meath, the Kildare and the Ward Union.

### India

If Africa was novel and exciting, it was India that exerted a fascination on young and old that is not easy to understand today. It was not just the colour, the mystery and the juxtaposition of many cultures and histories within one country, it was the whole way of life that the British in India led in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Indian Mutiny in 1857 blotted this existence:

“Terrible atrocities had been committed on both sides. From now on there was an increasing gulf between the rulers and the ruled. The easy-going ways of the eighteenth century were gone forever, and so were the missionary fervour and reforming zeal of the early Victorians and their predecessors. The English no longer looked on India as ‘home’, or themselves as crusaders called to redeem and uplift the great multitudes. British administration became detached, impartial, efficient.”<sup>351</sup>

And it was to this administration, both military and civil, that so many were drawn as the essential introduction to that seductive way of life.

### General William Kincaid

John Henry’s younger brother was William.

“My father [William] was a second son; and since my grandfather [Joseph]<sup>352</sup> decided that the eldest son, John [Henry], should enter the firm, he sought an Indian career for my father. He approached Lord Palmerston, whose influence secured the latter a commission in the Madras Army. My grandfather then took the young officer, only just turned seventeen, to call on Lord Palmerston at his house in Piccadilly, later the Naval and Military Club. There the genial old statesman gave my father a hearty greeting: ‘Mind you send me half your prize money,’ were his farewell words.”<sup>353</sup>

The young William sailed for India in 1849, but it was an adventurous journey, which included a tornado, and it took four months rather than the usual three. When they got to the Hoogli River, a tiger sprang on board and carried off an Indian crew member, but William reached Calcutta safely.

<sup>351</sup> *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*, Sir Winston Churchill, Cassell & Co, London, volume 4, page 70-72.

<sup>352</sup> See Chapter Seven.

<sup>353</sup> *Forty-Four Years a Public Servant*, C.A.Kincaid, William Blackwood & Sons, London, 1934, page 3.



“He reported himself on arrival, and learned that he had been posted to a Madras regiment stationed in the Mysore plateau. The only way of joining his regiment was to ride several hundred miles. He started to do this; but at one of his stages he met the 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment of Madras Infantry. One of its officers had been my father’s school friend. The latter insisted on my father getting himself transferred to the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and for three years he served with this regiment.”<sup>354</sup>

After a spell in England on sick leave, he returned to India where the Mutiny had broken out, and he found that his regiment was besieged in Haidarabad by the Nizam’s forces. Despite an offer of a post on the general’s staff, he decided to try and rejoin the regiment. It was a dangerous journey, but with a good helping of luck he avoided the rebel forces and rejoined his regiment.

After the Mutiny, the 22<sup>nd</sup> Madras Infantry was transferred to Singapore, and William, now a captain, was sent with a detachment to Labuan, a large island north of Borneo, where he remained for four years.

“He loved to talk of this time, and I never tired of listening to him. The Governor of Labuan was the Honourable E. Edwardes, a son of the Whig peer, Lord Kensington. The latter, a devoted follower of Charles James Fox, left England during the Napoleonic Wars and became a close friend of the Bonapartes. Pauline Borghese, *nee* Bonaparte, had made a special pet of Edwardes when a boy, and used to receive him in her bath – the water duly clouded so that the decencies might, nominally at any rate, be observed. Edwardes took a great fancy to my father, and appointed him to act as his secretary and gave him rooms in the Residency. The third member of the household was a young orang-utan about three feet high. It was devotedly attached to Edwardes. It used to sit at table for meals. After dinner it would take a book and sit beside its master. It pretended to read, and always turned a page when Edwardes did.”<sup>355</sup>

But malaria was the real problem and, after four years, William was so ill that he had to take leave and return to Madras. There the Chief Justice urged him to enter the Political Department of the Government of India. This might have been a difficult matter, but Lord Palmerston was approached and all difficulties disappeared. William was posted as Boundary Officer in Central India. When he retired in 1887, he was a major general and had earned a high reputation as Resident (or governor general) at Bhopal. Having lived abroad all his life, he may have found, as did so many others, that he did not feel at home in England, and it is perhaps not surprising that he became an inveterate traveller after he retired. He died in 1909 from a stroke while crossing the Andes.

<sup>354</sup> *Forty-Four Years a Public Servant*, C.A.Kincaid, William Blackwood & Sons, London, 1934, page 4.

<sup>355</sup> *Forty-Four Years a Public Servant*, C.A.Kincaid, William Blackwood & Sons, London, 1934, page 7.



*Major General William Kincaid.*

Bookplate of Major General William Kincaid

*His arms are impaled with those of his wife, Patty Shortt*

William had married Patty Shortt, youngest daughter of the Reverend Shortt of Co. Cork. Her family was also connected to India: her uncle was killed during the Mutiny and his three daughters butchered and thrown into the Cawnpore well. Nothing daunted, Patty set out for India soon afterwards and met Kincaid, then a Boundary Officer.

“He was very much in debt and she had been very strictly brought up by a clergyman with very little money and she made him pay off all his debts. She must have been a very pretty girl with big, grey-blue eyes and was very vivacious and full of enjoyment. A great character.”<sup>356</sup>

Patty was witty, full of fun and very Irish. She and William had two sons, Willie (this name, rather than William, appears on both baptismal and marriage certificates) and Charles.

“My grandmother [Patty, wife of General William] came home from India, and she had these two boys whom she didn’t know what to do with. So she said to

<sup>356</sup> Sheila Uren nee Kincaid, interview with the author, 13 April 1975.



Charles, you'd better go into the Indian Civil Service, you won't do any good in uniform, you're too short and fat; and Willie, you can go into the Army as you're quite clever and could get into the Royal Engineers and you'll look marvellous in uniform. That was the way to bring up sons in those days."<sup>357</sup>

### Willie: the Railway King

This may well be apocryphal, but that is what happened. In the same year that General William retired from service in India, Willie passed out of the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich and received a commission in the Royal Engineers. Two years later he was posted to India, where he became an assistant engineer on the East Coast State Railway, initially working on surveying and constructing the line, then when the line was open, officiating as Traffic Superintendent. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1890. In 1896 he was transferred to the North Western Railway as a District Traffic Superintendent.

In 1897, he was moved to Egypt as an assistant field engineer. The following year he was promoted to captain and became manager of the Delta Light Railways, a network of 2 feet 6 inch gauge lines in the Nile Delta, which had been constructed in 1894 to carry agricultural produce from the delta to the larger towns served by the broader-gauge Egyptian State Railways.

"The control of the Egyptian State Railways by the Royal Engineers is perhaps one of the most striking features of that remarkable quarter of a century at the close of which British prestige and authority attained their zenith under Lord Kitchener as His Majesty's representative in Cairo ... [The railway] was in a deplorable condition. The stations were badly designed and congested with dilapidated rolling stock. The signals were not interlocked; and there were no safety appliances, although Egypt was clamouring for express trains. The bridges were weak, the rails worn-out, and 150 miles of track was actually classed as dangerous. The locomotives were not sufficiently powerful. The passenger accommodation was unsatisfactory, and there was a shortage of goods wagons. As to the staff, they were neglected, poorly educated and unreliable. Girouard realised at once that he would need experienced assistants to enforce discipline and cope with increasing traffic, and his first selection was Captain W.A.S. Kincaid, who was transferred from the post of General Manager of the Egyptian Delta Light Railways and joined the Egyptian State Railways as Traffic Manager early in 1899."<sup>358</sup>

<sup>357</sup> Sheila Uren nee Kincaid, interview with the author, 13 April 1975.

<sup>358</sup> *History of the Royal Engineers in Egypt and the Sudan*, E.W.C.Saunders, Institution of Royal Engineers, Chatham, 1937, page 408.



### Empire builders

*(Top left) Colonel William Henry Francis Style Kincaid, Royal Engineers*

*(Top right) Major Willie Alexander Scotland Kincaid, Royal Engineers*

*(Bottom left) Lieutenant (later Major) John Brian Shortt Kincaid, Royal Artillery*

*(Bottom right) Dennis Kincaid, Indian Civil Service*

*Top two photographs by permission of the Royal Engineers Library*

The work was overwhelming, but Willie's contribution was recognised by the host country with the award of the Insignia of the Imperial Ottoman Order of the Osmanieh by the Khedive of Egypt. It was while he was in Egypt that he married Charlotte Jervis, generally known as Nina.

In the autumn of 1902, he reverted to the Indian establishment and was appointed General Manager of the Burma Railways, a post he held for nearly



six years. It was during this tour of duty that his health, never robust, began to fail, necessitating a long spell of home leave. He returned to India as Deputy Traffic Superintendent of North West Railways towards the end of 1909, but his health deteriorated once more. Suddenly taken ill, he died in February 1911 at the very early age of 43.

A memoir that appeared in the Royal Engineers Journal in August 1911 said:

“Never physically a strong man or much given to outdoor sports, Kincaid suffered much from asthma, but in spite of this handicap he was always cheery and bright, never complaining about his own health and always ready to brighten the lives of those with whom he came into contact.”

His wife, Nina, returned to England with their two small children, Eric and Sylvia, and is remembered as a very charming person.<sup>359</sup> However, she died shortly afterwards – of a broken heart, some said; of pneumonia according to others.

### Charles Augustus Kincaid

General William's second son needed no encouragement to go to India:

“I was just 17 years old and still at Sherborne School. I was in the sixth form; but I was thoroughly dissatisfied with the progress I was making. When my father proposed to take me away and send me to Wren's to prepare for the Indian Civil Service, I was delighted.”<sup>360</sup>

After two years' hard work, he won a post as Civil Service Probationer and went up to Balliol College Oxford to study Indian languages. He left for India in 1891, at the height of Britain's Imperial Age. Queen Victoria had been proclaimed as Empress of India and at her Golden Jubilee, India had been vividly represented, as she would be at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee ten years later. Charles Augustus Kincaid was well-named, indeed.

“He was first posted to Sind and there acquired a taste for shikar which lasted till the end of this service and began those inquiries into the history and customs of the people with whom he was brought into contact that he afterwards continued wherever he was stationed.

On transfer to the Judicial Department in 1896 he served successively in Satara, Rajkot, and Poona, and was in 1910 appointed Secretary to the Government of Bombay in the Political and Judicial Department when the late

<sup>359</sup> Interview with Dorothy Etlinger (niece of General William Kincaid), 13 April 1976.

<sup>360</sup> *Forty-Four Years A Public Servant*, C.A. Kincaid, William Blackwood & Sons, London, 1934, page 9.

Lord Sydenham was Governor. He held that office at the time when King George V visited India and it fell to his lot to deal with numerous questions of precedence in official ceremonies and other affairs connected with the royal visit. For that work he was decorated with the CVO<sup>361</sup> at the time of the King's durbar at Delhi. Reverting to the Judicial Department, he sat at intervals in the old Legislative Council at Simla and Delhi. After holding the office of Judicial Commissioner in Sind he was made an acting Judge of the Bombay High Court, and retired in 1926.

On his retirement Kincaid started on another career – in the Consular Service. He was first appointed vice-consul at Cherbourg, then consul at Berne in 1931, and finally vice-consul at St. Malo in 1934. For that work he was well qualified and not least by his good knowledge of French which, together with his devotion to the cause of France in the 1914-18 War, had won him in 1923 the distinction of being made Officier de l'Instruction Publique. He retired from the consular service in 1935.

Both in India and after he had retired he wrote a large number of magazine articles and books dealing for the most part with the folklore and mythology of India, of which *The Indian Heroes*, *Tales from the Indian Drama*, and *Tales of Old Sind* are among the best known. Several of his books were so well received in India that they were prescribed for educational purposes. He was less successful as an historian than as a collector of folklore and was content to mingle mythology with history in a way that he thought suited to such a country as India with its fabulous pedigrees. He collaborated with the late Mr. D.B.Parnassis in a three volume *History of the Maratha People*, and in 1934 he published his memoirs of life in India and in France.”<sup>362</sup>

He was a brilliant linguist, and by the end of his life he spoke thirteen languages fluently. He was able to conduct court cases in a handful of Indian languages, and his French was so perfect that Frenchmen would say that the only way they knew he was not a native of France was because his French was so beautiful.

“I remember Charles Augustus. He was rather short, very good looking, fattish, and could talk non-stop and very interestingly, about himself.”<sup>363</sup>

He was also a keen sportsman. He rowed for Balliol College Oxford, was a very good shot, but, more extraordinarily, became a good cricketer even though he had not played the game until years after he arrived in India, where determined practice soon enabled him to play at a good level of club cricket.

Charles Augustus loved India, but he also loved his time as vice-consul at Cherbourg in his beloved France. He had married Katherine Seddon in

<sup>361</sup> Companion of the Royal Victorian Order.

<sup>362</sup> Obituary in the Times, London, August 1954.

<sup>363</sup> Interview by the author with Molly Kincaid, 15 April 1976.



India, and she too scored a great success in France where her gardening skills were much admired by the French. His career and character are explored more fully in Spotlight VI.

### Dennis Kincaid

Charles Augustus Kincaid's two sons were also destined for India. The eldest, Dennis, was very clever and gained an Exhibition to his father's old Oxford College, Balliol. Although he was a very good swimmer, he was not a sportsman, but loved the arts and society girls. He was apparently part of a smart set at Oxford, one of his friends being Paul de Laszlo, the son of the painter. Another was the artist and cartoonist Osbert Lancaster, who remembered him vividly:

"Of all the undergraduate regulars at the Colonel's Sundays the most memorable was, perhaps, the late Dennis Kincaid. Although only a year or so my senior his appearance was that of a well-fed forty; heavy-jowled, his chaps always faintly quivering with suppressed laughter, with a complexion which suggested he had been weaned on dry sherry and whipped-cream walnuts, for us he was always encompassed by an air of unattainable maturity. Never one to stand for a moment when he could sit, at every party he was invariably to be found solidly ensconced in a corner whence he had no occasion to move to dominate the whole assembly, wheezing and, as the evening wore on, lightly beaded with sweat, surrounded by open-mouthed admirers, like some self-indulgent Buddha who had decided that his mission could best be accomplished from a favourite table at the Closerie des Lilas. As a raconteur I have never, in all the years that have passed, heard his equal. Although his imitations were outstanding, mimicry played but a subordinate role in his art which achieved its most notable effects by a sustained fantasy and perfect timing. Taking some relatively ordinary incident or encounter he would develop it and embroider on it in a way which beautifully served to illuminate and enlarge the characters of those involved to a point where they assumed mythological status and, as life notoriously copies art, those figures on whom he chiefly delighted to expound began after a time to conform in their behaviour ever more closely to the roles to which he had assigned them. Thus some dim but pompous light of the Union would, after Dennis had got to work on him, develop a capacity for spouting painstaking nonsense far greater than that with which he had naturally been endowed, and such a character as the Colonel himself achieved fame and found fulfilment by enthusiastically overacting his own, Kincaid-created, legend. On going down Dennis followed [his] forebears into the I.C.S. [Indian Civil Service] and was lost to Europe."<sup>364</sup>

<sup>364</sup> *With an Eye to the Future*, Osbert Lancaster, John Murray, London, 1967, page 79-80.

Dennis had no wish to go to India and wanted to be a barrister in London, but his father's opinion was that:

“It was very difficult to get briefs then and you really needed a private income. If you ever started earning much, it wasn't until you were about 35. He had spent so much on his education that he wasn't going to keep him until he was 35 and therefore he had better go out to India.”<sup>365</sup>

In India, Dennis missed the culture of England and was unhappy, concentrating only on staying long enough to qualify for a proportionate pension. But if he was unhappy, he remained the most charming of men – and original: he arrived one evening to escort a lady to a ball riding an elephant.

Despite his work and the social life, he found the time and energy to write several books:

“From time to time there appeared a novel of Indian life, sensitive, compassionate and, according to those in a position to know, displaying a remarkable insight into alien attitudes and traditions but, curiously, deliberately unrelieved by wit. And then came the first volume of what would surely have proved to be his masterpiece *A History of English Social Life in India* in which knowledge, sympathy and humour were triumphantly blended.”<sup>366</sup>

The correct title is *British Social Life in India 1608-1937* and, despite its forbidding title, it is packed with interesting and amusing anecdotes and, as the dust-jacket says:

“The approach throughout is decorative rather than academic and leads to a highly entertaining pageant of the British in India.”

Perhaps only someone who was not a true enthusiast for such a life could chronicle it so successfully, warts and all.

He had not quite completed this book when, in 1937, he was tragically drowned, swimming in the sea. A brilliant man, first caged and then cut down unfulfilled.

### Major John Kincaid

His younger brother John was, in contrast, ideally suited to life in India. He was a sportsman, having represented the public schools at fencing, but it was riding that became his love, and as a friend of his remarked, if you wanted to be paid for riding in those days, you joined the Army. By then, the memories

<sup>365</sup> Interview with Sheila Uren (nee Kincaid) on 13 April 1975.

<sup>366</sup> *With an Eye to the Future*, Osbert Lancaster, John Murray, London 1967, page 80.



of the First World War were fading, particularly as those leaving school were too young to have remembered living through it. Moreover, it was a time when belief in the “war to end all wars” was not yet dead, and when the General Strike of 1926 and the Depression from 1929 made life in the Army in India seem outstandingly attractive.

John went to the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich and gained a commission in the Royal Artillery. In India, he revelled in the daily opportunities for riding. Horses were then still vital components of artillery, and learning and maintaining riding skills were vital for all ranks. He bemoaned his move from Mhow in central India to Rawalpindi in what is now Pakistan,

“There are no real attractions about it, no big game, no pig sticking, no proper hunting, and the polo grounds are very poor owing to the scarcity of water ...”

Nevertheless he still had a grand time. He started polo again, had some glorious hunts and took part in hunter trials, showjumping and point-to-point races, winning many prizes.

He met his future wife, Stella Martin, in India and in his letters to her he mentioned, in addition to his riding, his interest in skating, photography and gardening.

“Northern India is supposed to be rather a good place for growing roses, but the ones in the Mess are very poor. I know that rose-trees ought to have calcium, phosphorus, carbon and nitrogen and so I told the mali to give them a mixture of egg-shells, old bones, goat and cow manure. I must say it sounds rather odd, but I can’t see any flaw in the theory of it. I am making a terrific attack on the gardens of our quarters ...”

But then the clouds began to darken with the news from Europe as Hitler assumed, and then abused, power. While many were happy to ignore the signs and revel in the hectic between-the-wars social, sporting and professional life, those in the Armed Forces could not ignore them. Mechanisation began to sweep away the old life centred on horses and the coming of war threatened other wholesale changes

His regiment was ordered home and he sailed in a troop ship on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1939. Stella returned home, too, and they were married in Devon just after the outbreak of the Second World War on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1939. Even in the midst of war, he could not let go of his sport, seeking to hunt with the East Devon Hunt and brushing up on his fencing skills.

After spells in two training regiments, he was posted to 132 Field Regiment as a captain, and then in November 1941 to 146 Field Regiment where he took over the battery that he was to command for the next two years.

The regiment arrived in North Africa just in time to take part in the pivotal battle of Alamein, and to play a key role in the subsequent pursuit of the defeated German forces. He believed he was the first man to enter Tunis after the defeat of the Germans in Tunisia, and was given a hero's welcome by the French inhabitants.

He took his battery into Italy and then was posted to a mountain artillery regiment, which took part in the forcing of the formidable Gustav Line, which had Monte Cassino at its centre. Here he was mentioned in despatches. After the breakthrough and the entry into Rome, John returned to England for the four-month course at the Staff College at Camberley. In January, he was in Belgium as a Brigade Major Royal Artillery with 6 Airborne Division. At the end of March, the division crossed the Rhine, but after more than two years of injury-free active service, John sustained fatal wounds.

So died a man of great character. Extracts from his letters, which tell the story of his war, are in Spotlight VII. They reveal him to be a man of many accomplishments. Not by inclination a ball-game player, he could hold his own at cricket, water polo and rugby, but it was in other sports that he excelled: he was a strong, fast swimmer; an expert fencer; a keen yachtsman; and was completely at home on his beloved horses, whether he was show-jumping, steeplechasing, fox hunting or big-game hunting.

He was not an intellectual, but he was clever – clever, but very idle, said his friends, although they acknowledged him to be energetic and determined enough when he needed to be. He also had his softer side. He knew his wild flowers, was interested in women's clothes and styles, dabbled in photography, gardened, advised from a distance on his children's illnesses and education, loved dancing and enjoyed the company of pretty women, despite his extremely happy marriage. His loss was a devastating blow to his family.





Charles Augustus Kincaid with his second son, John

## **Spotlight VI**

# **Charles Augustus Kincaid**

India – the “jewel in the crown of the British Empire”; India – the land of mystery and fantastic mythology; India – a huge land of extreme contrasts; India – a melting pot of diverse cultures. On 1<sup>st</sup> January 1877:

“Her Majesty’s title as Empress of India was proclaimed at noon this day upon the Plain of Delhi, with the most impressive pomp and splendour in an assemblage attended by fifty ruling Chiefs with their followers; a vast concourse of native Princes and nobles from all parts of India; the Khan and Sirdars of Khelat; the Ambassadors of Nepaul, Yarkand, Siam and Muscat; the envoys of Chitral and Yassin; the Governor-General of Goa and Consular body; all the Governors, Lieutenant Governors, and chief authorities, military, civil, and judicial, of British India, besides an immense gathering of Her Majesty’s unofficial subjects of all classes, European and native. The flower of Her Majesty’s Indian Army was drawn up on the Plain and made a splendid appearance.”<sup>367</sup>

It was this mingling of East and West that gave India its fascination: the parade-ground discipline and the riot of colour; the Church of England and the contrasting religions of the country; the strict social Victorian mores and the deep personal loyalty of Indians; the pomp, pageantry and richness; the cultures; the fairy tales; and the mix of British sport and Indian pastimes. A heady mix that appealed to so many.

And in 1891 it appealed strongly to Charles Augustus Kincaid who had loved to listen to his father, Major General William Kincaid, talk about India. After an education in France and England and two years at Oxford reading Indian languages, he was delighted to be joining the Indian Civil Service for what he was confident would be a lifetime of adventure in India. He had no regrets at all about leaving England: he wanted to shoot tigers.

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<sup>367</sup> Telegram of loyal greeting from the Viceroy of India to Queen Victoria.



He was posted initially to Sind where he was immediately confronted by exams. He had not studied Sindi at Oxford, but had to study that as well as work for the Departmental Examination.

“The so-called Departmental Examinations were first introduced in their present form in 1870, and they still [1934] exist as they then were established, save that, as the years have passed, faddist after faddist has added an extra paper in the hope that young civilians may be attracted towards his particular hobby. The result is that today the Departmental Examinations are a perfect curse. They force the junior civilian to learn by heart a mass of undigested facts, most of which are of no use to him afterwards.”<sup>368</sup>

Sind, now in southern Pakistan, is the province through which the River Indus flows to the sea at Karachi. He found the Sindi summer very trying. Although the daytime temperature reached 120° F in the shade, there were no electric fans, only hand-worked ones, and often no ice, yet, despite this, they were obliged to wear what we would consider today to be ridiculous amounts of clothing. Nevertheless, at 6 pm they would go and play tennis. He found sleep in this weather impossible. And then cholera broke out.

The cold weather arrived in November and things were decidedly less unpleasant:

“I had to tour my Assistant Collectorate. I had two ponies and I hired a riding camel. I rose early in the morning, did boundary inspection, and then rode on to my next camp. On arrival I breakfasted, did the routine office work or tried a magisterial case. In the late afternoon I took a gun and went out shooting with my faithful peon and shikari, Darya Khan. The evenings were very dull, and I missed the companionship of other young Englishmen ... The magisterial work was heavy and most unsatisfactory. Practically every case brought before me for trial was false. The country was governed by the big landowners ... They kept Sind free from sedition: they helped the police to catch murderers and dacoits. In return the magistrates were tacitly expected to punish as criminals all against whom any landowner might have a grudge.”

The District Magistrate and the Commissioner judged their subordinates' work by their percentage of convictions, with 50 per cent deemed to be the essential minimum. Kincaid found himself in hot water when he protested.

The hot weather affected his health and, after some sick leave in England, he was transferred to the judicial branch of the service at Satara, where he was Assistant Judge with appellate powers. Satara is near the west coast, south of Bombay and Poona. Here he found he had to train himself by doing

<sup>368</sup> Unless otherwise stated, the quotes in this chapter are from *Forty-Four Years a Public Servant*, C.A. Kincaid, Blackwood & Sons, London, 1934.

original civil work with the powers of a sub-judge, while at the same time learning a new language, Marathi. He got no help and had no time to study law. But of course he managed, for in February 1898 he was promoted to act as the Judicial Assistant to the Governor's Agent in Kathiawar, a peninsula (about the size of Ireland) on the west coast of the state of Gujerat.

### **Kathiawar**

Charles's duties were to try cases where he, on behalf of the area's chiefs, exercised residuary jurisdiction. All the chiefs, who numbered over 400, had jurisdiction within their areas, but only the "first- and second-class chiefs" were able to exercise it. He was allowed to take his court, for two months in summer, to the coast where the climate was ideal. The bathing, too, was excellent although at times the undertow could be lethal and sharks, though rare, a danger. However, the criminal work was heavy: murders, banditry, threatening letters and 'nose-cutting'.

When he had reason to believe that his wife had been unfaithful to him, the Kathiawar peasant sliced off her nose. She had it sewn back on at the hospital and filed a criminal case, but although the Bombay Government was always pressing for deterrent sentences, the judicial assistants never did, sympathising with the husband: he had paid a considerable sum of money for his bride, and he expected her to be faithful in return. If she was not, he could not get rid of her, as he would have no money to buy a new wife. However,

"Her beauty gone for ever, and willy-nilly she remains true to her husband. Indeed the women themselves seem to recognise that it is not unfair."

It was while he was in Kathiawar that he met his future wife, Katherine Seddon, the sister of a colleague. They returned to England in 1903 for the wedding. She was:

"... tall, charming and handsome, and her intelligence was far above the ordinary."

Furthermore, she was keen to ride with him on big game expeditions.

### **Poona and Satara**

In 1905 Charles was promoted again to become Judge of Poona, a city south of Bombay. Apart from his normal judicial duties, he also held the diplomatic post of Agent for the Sadar of the Deccan, bringing him into contact with:



“... a number of delightful Deccan noblemen ... It was then the custom for the Sardars to call every year on the Agent, and the strictest ceremonial was observed. The Agent had to meet the first class Sardar at his hall door, lead him by the hand into the Agent's office and seat him on the couch on his right hand. After a few complimentary remarks he would make a sign to the Assistant Agent, usually the Sheristedar or chief Indian official of the court. The latter would go outside, fetch a garland of flowers, a bouquet, a silver scent bottle and a little silver box holding sandalwood oil mixed with attar of roses. The Agent would put the garland round the Sardar's neck, hand him the bouquet, sprinkle it with rosewater from the scent bottle, and lastly, smear the Sardar's handkerchief with a little sandalwood oil and attar of roses. He would then lead the Sardar to the hall door and wait until the carriage had driven up.”

The procedure varied with the class of Sardar.

To his consternation, he found that Poona juries were not inclined to convict and this only encouraged crime and undermined the police. He took a tough line and sent two cases, where the jury had failed to convict, to the High Court, which reversed the decision. He then got the editor of the local paper to publish the names of the jury which had had their verdict reversed. Whether or not this was strictly ethical, it was certainly effective. He was then promoted to be a second-grade district judge.

### The Durbar

Further promotion came in 1910 when he was appointed Secretary to the Bombay Government in the Political, Judicial and Special Departments. During this tour of duty, King George V and Queen Mary visited India and it fell to him to organise the royal reception at Bombay, the camp at Delhi where the King and Queen were to be crowned as King-Emperor and Queen-Empress, as well as the royal departure. This involved a huge amount of work. When the day came, everything went smoothly.

The Viceroy and his staff greeted Their Majesties on board their ship, the *SS Medina*. Later they came ashore and, in a specially built pavilion, officials and consuls were presented to them. They then ascended a specially erected throne to face a huge amphitheatre in which hundreds of invited guests were seated. There were speeches and then the King and Queen drove in state through Bombay. Kincaid was honoured with an invitation to dine aboard the *Medina*.

The Durbar at Delhi took place on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1911, but all sorts of little troublesome issues arose in the days immediately before it – little, perhaps, but all of them of the deadliest importance to the parties themselves:

“The precedence of the Kathiawar chiefs among themselves was settled, but not with their relation to Their Highnesses the Nawabs of Palanpur and Radhanpur; and the two last were at variance as to their own precedence. Then there was the case of H.H. the Aga Khan. He was the head of the great religious community known as the Khojas, the lineal descendants of the assassins of the crusading days. Nevertheless he had no territorial jurisdiction.”

He had to settle each question as best as he could, and he did so.

In January, the King and Queen returned to Bombay for their departure from India. They were leaving safe and well after an unparalleled success, unmarred by any unsavoury incident. For all his work, Kincaid was made a Companion of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO).

India at this time was relatively quiet, and the vast majority of Indians would have done anything to please their King-Emperor or Queen-Empress. Kincaid had met Gandhi previously and had formed a good impression of him, but the future civil disobedience leader was yet to stir up the multitudes. There had been many agitators and seditious pamphlets, but these had had little effect up to that time.

### **Poona, Satara and the Viceroy's Council**

After the Durbar, Charles became Judge of Satara, which is south of Bombay, and then returned to Poona. He also became ‘Visitor’ of the lunatic asylum at Yerawda. After that he was District Judge at Nasik, north-east of Bombay on the banks of the sacred Godavari River. There he found the hot weather unpleasantly warm only in the middle of the day, while the nights were cool and the winter sharp and invigorating. He found the workload at Nasik light, and while he was there he was nominated as a member of the Viceroy's Council.

“At this time there was only one assembly in Delhi [the new capital], known as the Legislative Council of the Viceroy. It consisted of a minority of elected members, and of a majority, known as the official ‘Block’, of nominated officials and non-officials. Among the nominated officials was a representative of each province. I was to be nominated for the Presidency of Bombay. Ordinarily there would have been no difficulty, but the Chief Justice, on grounds very flattering to me but at the same time most annoying, objected to my appointment to the Council. He claimed that I was one of his ablest and most experienced judges.”

However, the Chief Justice was overruled, and Kincaid took his place on the Council, entitling him to the prefix of ‘Honourable’. His maiden speech went well, but he thought that the standard of oratory in the Council



generally was low, with the result that he was prevailed upon to speak on the government side whenever a good reply to the "ebullient rhetoric of the non-official members" was needed. During each session, he dined at least once at the home of the Viceroy. They ate off silver-plate, much to the disdain of one Indian guest who assured him that his own state service was all of gold.

### **Sind and the High Court at Bombay**

Charles now returned to Sind as Judicial Commissioner, 23 years after he had left it. It was now 1918 and the First World War had virtually passed India by, except for the large number of soldiers that had been sent to support Britain in the war in Europe. His wife had been stuck in Britain for some time, but now she was able to return, startling many by her prodigious appetite after years of food shortage in Britain.

By now, there was much more agitation in India and things had greatly changed since the visit of the King and Queen in 1911. Unfortunate government reform schemes had led to disaffection in Bengal and then throughout India. Factions committed the murder of members of other factions and general lawlessness grew. Nevertheless, India was still relatively quiet and officials were generally safe moving about the country in the course of their duties.

In 1921, Kincaid became a temporary additional judge of the High Court in Bombay, and was offered a permanent place on the Bench in 1925 which, owing to ill-health, he had to refuse. He retired the following year.

### **Cherbourg and Berne**

He then began another career in the diplomatic service, first as Vice Consul at Cherbourg and then as Consul at Berne. He loved France and spoke the most perfect French. While in India, he had delivered lectures on India in French to certain societies and had been awarded the prestigious award of Officier de l'Instruction Publique, and he became the first foreigner to be elected as a member of the Academie Nationale de Cherbourg.

When he went to Berne, he hoped to improve his German, but found that the Swiss there spoke Bernese which he found to be a language of its own, unintelligible to Germans. Early on, he asked a neighbour:

"“Is it a patois or a separate language?” ‘Monsieur,’ he replied, ‘it is a mediaeval form of German. It is what English will be a hundred years hence ... a mediaeval form of American.’”

By 1933, the shadow of Hitler was already falling over Europe and it was time to retire, exactly 44 years after joining the Indian Civil Service.

### Indian Friendship

Throughout his time in India, Kincaid had befriended Indians and delved into the mythology of the various states he had lived in. In many places he found that Indians were devoted to British rule, and he cherished Indian friendship.

“I do not think that those who have not enjoyed the intimate friendship of an Indian gentleman can really know how precious friendship can be. I do not wish in any way to deprecate my own countrymen; nevertheless I do not think that they put friendship on quite so high a level as Indians do. Your Englishman is apt to be so confoundedly impartial . . . An Indian would look at the matter with quite a different eye. To an Indian a friend is a friend, and one should always be ready to praise him both to his face and behind his back, and do him a good turn whenever the occasion arises. On the other hand an enemy is an enemy . . . I have had several Indian gentlemen as my friends, and their friendships are among my most treasured possessions.”

### Languages and Authorship

Mention has already been made of Charles's ability to learn languages. He could converse fluently in Hindi, Sindi, Gujarati and Marathi, being an examiner in the last, and also studied Sanskrit. Nevertheless, he found Indian languages complex with a wider difference in syntax than English. That he had a flair for languages is unquestionable, and it seems that he could speak thirteen languages, many of them fluently, whether European or Indian.

His interest in the mythology and customs of India led him in due course to write on these subjects for the *Times of India*. It was in Kathiawar that he began this long association:

“I had known the Assistant Editor, Mr Reed, for some time. I had also published in *East and West*, Mr. Malabari's magazine, two articles: *Karen Ghelo*, a study of Mr. Nandashankar's famous Gujarati novel; and *The Parsis and Hellenic Influence*. In the latter I traced, in the modern Parsis, Greek origins dating back to Alexander and his successors. The articles attracted a good deal of attention; and when I offered to write for the *Times of India* about the various outlaw leaders who had infested Kathiawar, and the ballads written in their honour, Reed, on behalf of the Editor, Mr Lovat Fraser, accepted my offer. These articles, together with the two articles in *East and*



*West* and one or two poems, were subsequently reprinted in book form by the *Times of India* under the title of *The Outlaws of Kathiawar*."

This was the first of many books on India. While he was at Poona, he found time to write, again for the *Times of India* – a series of articles which were later published in book form as *The Tale of the Tulsi Plant*. He found little time to write while he was in the Secretariat in Bombay, but the less heavy workload at Satara gave him the opportunity to resume his writing. He had found some charming children's stories which he translated, publishing them as *Deccan Nursery Tales* with water-colour illustrations by an artist named Dhurandhar. This was quickly followed by a series of articles on Indian heroes, which was published in book form. This book was adopted as a textbook by all the Chief's Colleges and, by 1934, had sold 50,000 copies and was still selling.

More books followed in almost bewildering profusion: *Tales from the Indian Epics*, which was again prescribed reading in schools, *Indian Heroes* (1915), *Ishtur Phakde* (1917), *Tales of the Indian Epics* (1918), *Tales of the Saints of Pandharpur* (1919), *Shri Krishna and Other Stories* (1920), *Tales of King Vikrama* (1921), *Tales of Old Sind* (1922), *The Anchorite* (1922), *Tales from the Indian Drama* (1923), *Folk Tales of Sind and Gujerat* (1924), *Teachers of India* (1927), *Successors of Alexander* (1929), *Cherbourg and the Colentin* (1930), *Our Hindu Friends* (1930), *Tales of a Throne* (1932), *Indian Lions* (1933), *Forty-Four Years a Public Servant* (1934), *A Verse Translation of Ovid's Heroides* (1937), *Indian Cavaliers* (1937), *Indian Christmas Stories* (1939), *Heroines of India* (1941), *Hindu Gods* (1942), *Our Parsi Friends* (1942), *Shivaji* (1946) and *Laxmibai Rani of Jhansi* (1946). But it was his three-volume *History of the Maratha People*, from 1237 to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, written in conjunction with his old friend Rao Bahadur D.B. Parasnis, that is his most substantial work, originally published in three volumes in 1918, 1922 and 1925.

His book *The Land of Ranji and Duleep* was written while on a visit to India in 1931 after he had retired from there. It was, to my intense disappointment when he gave me a copy as a boy, not about those two great Indian cricketers, Ranjitsinji and Duleepsinji, but a history of their state, Nawanagar.

### An All-Round Sportsman

But it was sport that had drawn Charles Augustus Kincaid to India in the first place, and what an all-round sportsman he was. He played tennis frequently and well, and not only as a social activity: at Satara he played with Sigismund Arthur who had represented Oxford against Cambridge.



He played much polo in his younger days. At Kathiawar, a golf course was created and he began to play a great deal in the hot weather.

He had not played cricket at school, but at Satara he met a Mr Wilkins who was a brilliant cricketer.

“One day he said to me, ‘Why don’t you come to the nets, Kincaid?’ I had to confess that I could not play cricket at all . . . ‘If that is all,’ retorted Wilkins, ‘and if you would really care to learn, I’ll teach you.’ I accepted joyfully, and for three months the devoted Wilkins taught me daily to bat and bowl. In the end he had turned me into a good defensive bat and a useful change bowler.”

He became better and better. Soon he was making good scores, and at Kathiawar he scored two centuries in a season, one against a Musulman team and the other against the local High School. He played in all the Kathiawar Cricket Club matches while he was there, the home games being played at Rajkot.

“Among the cricketers in Rajkot that year was the renowned Ranjitsinji. At this time Ranji’s fame as a bat was at its highest. No one in England approached him, and he had just been ‘down under’ with Mr Stoddart’s team to play in the Test Matches against Australia.”

In fact, Ranjitsinji had done wonderfully well for England in that Test series, despite the loss of the series 1 – 4. In the First Test in Sydney, Ranji had made a chanceless 175, despite being unwell. In the subsequent Tests he followed with scores of 71, 77 (although injured) and, as Reuter’s put it, “only 55”.

Captaining Kathiawar, Kincaid led his team to a conclusive victory over Bombay, a satisfactory win against Poona, and an honourable draw with a side which included seven first-class cricketers. Later, when he was at Poona, he captained the Indian Civil Service, but had to give up cricket after that because of the pressure of work. Nevertheless, he remained an ardent cricket-lover and nothing gave him greater pleasure in later life than being elected a member of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the headquarters of the game worldwide.

He also enjoyed winter sports during his leaves from India – tobogganning, skating and skiing. He became more and more expert as a shot against game birds.

But it was big-game hunting that had been the real lure of India for him. At Kathiawar he hunted panther, deer and lion with a rifle, and antelope, deer and boar on horseback armed with a lance, sometimes in company with his wife.



### **A Life of Achievement**

It is difficult to understand how he could have fitted so much into his life. The research and writing of some 30 books, the study and mastery of thirteen languages, a variety of sports at which he excelled, the social life, deep friendship with Europeans and Indians, and a career of distinction in the judicial service. Today that would be impossible, but in those days the ties of family were less time-consuming (his children went to boarding school in England and he hardly ever saw them) and the volume of administrative trivia and the petty regulations in his every day work would have been far less than today. Nevertheless, his was a full life and one of immense achievement.







Lieutenant (later Major) John Kincaid with his wife Stella Martin

## **Spotlight VII**

# **Letters From A Soldier**

Charles Augustus Kincaid's second son, John, returned from India to England at the outbreak of the Second World War. His letters to his wife, from January 1941 until March 1945, survive and give an intimate view of the war and its privations, not least the long separations from family.

After the disaster in France in May and June of 1940, and the amazing escape of the bulk of the British Expeditionary Force through Dunkirk, Britain stood on the brink of catastrophe: only the Royal Air Force stood in the way of an overwhelming invasion of the victorious German forces. Although the 'Few', in winning the Battle of Britain in the September of that year, removed the immediate invasion threat, the Army was shattered and much of its heavy equipment lay wrecked in France. Re-equipment was necessary, but so was the training of raw conscripts and the production of trained, fighting formations.

### **Training New Regiments**

John Kincaid, having served in two training regiments during the first year of the war, was posted to 132 Field Regiment in Aldershot in November 1940 as a temporary captain. The regiment, full of wartime conscripts, needed a lot of training. Inevitably, there were ups and downs.

“(14<sup>th</sup> January 1941) I sometimes get rather depressed with this battery; I think it is getting better but it's an uphill struggle ... (16<sup>th</sup> January) I took the battery out today; the major was to have taken it out but he had retired to bed with a chill and Rodney is still in bed, so I did Battery Commander; the Brigadier came out and watched us and seemed quite pleased ... (20<sup>th</sup> January) The battery went out on a scheme which the CO [Commanding Officer] watched. It snowed the whole time ... The scheme didn't go too well as, of course, our stupid old Major gave out his orders all wrong which didn't help ... (15<sup>th</sup> May) We took the guns to Larkhill [artillery ranges] on Thursday ... the guns shot



remarkably well and this battery was complimented on its shooting, but the movement of the battery was very slow.’’<sup>369</sup>

The regiment had now received its full complement of guns, allowing a new battery to be formed, and a return to troops of four rather than six guns. This was a step forward, but it left the regiment short of signallers and drivers, and he fretted about the news from North Africa where the arrival of Rommel had turned the tide of British successes.

“(19<sup>th</sup> April 1941) I’m afraid the news from the East is rather bad. What I feared has happened. Wilson has been caught with his trousers down in Cyrenaica and has been attacked by much stronger German forces than he expected. I’m afraid Egypt will be in danger shortly.”

In November, he became a troop commander:

“(22<sup>nd</sup> November 1941) The battery is undergoing its reorganisation tomorrow and from then on I shall be a troop commander, with a lot to do in the way of smartening up the troop I take over; at present they are rather a sloppy lot.”

But he had no time to smarten them up, as that same month he was promoted to the acting rank of major and posted to 146 Field Regiment in Dorset as a battery commander. He was to serve in this appointment throughout his war in North Africa from Alamein to Tunis and on into Italy. By January 1942, he was finding the training of his battery a challenge.

“(30<sup>th</sup> January 1942) One day I think the battery is improving by leaps and bounds; the next day I wonder if it is improving at all! However, I think that on the whole I am making slow progress, but it’s an uphill job.”

### **The Long Voyage to the Desert**

However, by June they were ready and embarked at Liverpool for an unknown destination.

“(undated) We are now on the boat, I can’t say which one it is, but it is a very large passenger boat and it looks as if we ought to be pretty comfortable ... Sherry costs fourpence a glass, whisky the same ...”

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<sup>369</sup> Unless otherwise stated, all quotes in this Spotlight are from the letters of John Kincaid to his wife, Stella Martin.

They stopped at Freetown in Sierra Leone, where he found the heat irritating, and then landed in Durban, South Africa, where they remained for several weeks in pretty good conditions.

“(3<sup>rd</sup> August 1942) We have been a fortnight here now and nobody seems to have the faintest idea when we move on. We have had a very good time here on the whole. The weather is just perfect and the bathing is really magnificent. I spend practically all my free time in the sea or in the magnificent swimming pool ...”

Good though the temporary conditions were, he found being out of contact miserable:

“(3<sup>rd</sup> August 1942) It is beastly being without any news from home for such a long time. I have been away from you for 51 days now without hearing a word, and I don't expect to get any mail for at least another month.”

They were at sea again in the middle of August and, after a stop in Aden and passage through the Red Sea, they arrived in Egypt three weeks later. His first impressions were not favourable.

“(18<sup>th</sup> September 1942) We do not like our first impression of the desert very much; the best time of day is early morning from 6.30 to 9 and late in the evening. For the rest of the day a most unpleasant wind blows and the air is thick with dust. It is also pretty hot but I expect we'll be moving to a slightly cooler part of the country shortly ... (7<sup>th</sup> October) I am writing this in my little hole in the ground by the light of a torch so you must forgive my bad writing ... Darling, whenever you hear on the news mention of 'dust-storms', you can pity the unfortunates who are in it! I am alright, sitting in the back of the car but outside there is just a grey mist of blowing sand and dust. I wonder if you will be able to feel it on the paper when it arrives; everything is full of sand; food, water and my bed.”

But they got used to it.

### **The Battle of Alamein**

They had arrived on the scene at the lowest ebb of the fortunes of British forces in North Africa. Tobruk had fallen to Rommel in June and the Eighth Army had been chased back to Egypt where it stood at bay. At this point, General Montgomery took command.

Rommel had had to stop to allow essential repairs and maintenance to be carried out and for his supplies to catch up with him. He was also facing



British air superiority. But it was obvious that the decisive battle was close. In October, that battle began.

“(22<sup>nd</sup> October 1942) We have taken part in our first battle and, so far I have had nothing to do at all. The guns fired a five hour concentration as part of the artillery preparation and we are now in reserve to an armoured division, which at the moment is having a bit of a scrap with part of a German panzer division about twenty miles out in front. We have had no excitement so far and no casualties, and reports indicate that the battle seems to be going quite smoothly, but it is very early yet even to know what Rommel’s countermoves are, and nearly everything depends on the fighting between our armour and his ...

(30<sup>th</sup> October 1942) The battle is still going on, quite successfully apparently, but we are not taking a very active part in it. The guns have had quite a lot of work to do and have been fairly plastering Jerry [the Germans] ... Peculiar battle this, our infantry are slowly chewing up his, while the armour keeps the ring ...

(1<sup>st</sup> November 1942) The infantry are doing very well and still seem to have plenty of go in them and I think the Jerries are getting pretty tired. They have put in a number of counter attacks, most of which have been smashed by our guns ...”

(3<sup>rd</sup> November 1942) The battle seems to be going on quite successfully and so far it would appear that General Montgomery – ‘Monty’ – is a match for old Rommel. He has concentrated on eating up the enemy’s infantry in the north with such success that when the New Zealanders and Highlanders went in yesterday, they broke through his remaining infantry with the utmost ease, and our own tanks drove through in a concentrated body to meet the enemy tanks. Since then a tank battle has been in progress, the result of which is hardly in doubt; the only question being how soon will they break?”

Only one more hole had to be punched and this was done by the 5<sup>th</sup> Indian Brigade. The battle of Alamein was won, and the way finally cleared for the armour of the Eighth Army to pursue the defeated forces across the open desert. Rommel was now in full retreat, his army decisively beaten. The artillery had played a full part. Rommel praised them:

“The British artillery demonstrated once again its well-known excellence. Especially noteworthy was its great mobility and speed of reaction to the requirements of the assault troops.”<sup>370</sup>

Alamein was one of the key battles of the Second World War. As Churchill put it:

<sup>370</sup> *Rommel*, Desmond Young, page 279.

“It marked in fact the turning of ‘the Hinge of Fate’. It may almost be said, ‘Before Alamein we never had a victory. After Alamein we never had a defeat.’”<sup>371</sup>

### Pursuing Rommel

After the victory, the chase. The 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division, of which John Kincaid’s regiment was a part, played a key role.

“(13<sup>th</sup> December 1942) We have been right in the front in this latest pursuit and have had quite an interesting time. Jerry has been running too fast for us to catch up with him properly, but we did a bit of shooting a few days ago and hurried up his tail a bit. We are now sitting down for a few days to let our supplies catch up before moving on again. I’m afraid our hopes of being in Tripoli by Christmas have rather faded! Jerry has almost certainly built up a strong defence line somewhere this side of Tripoli, which will probably take some time to break through ...

(25<sup>th</sup> December 1942) The battery had a really good Christmas dinner. In addition we found a well the day before yesterday and so the chaps had enough water for a wash, which was a great relief, as we have been down to three mugfuls of salty water each (for all purposes) for the last few days. We have been stationary for nearly a week now, waiting for supplies to be moved up in order to enable us to continue our pursuit, but we think that we ought to continue the chase tomorrow, and with a bit of luck we ought to be nearing Tripoli by the New Year ...

(26<sup>th</sup> January 1943) Well, after a six-day chase across the desert we are now in the green and pleasant land of Tripoli ... The big chase started on the 15<sup>th</sup> when we led the regiment into action at dawn in front of the leading tanks and opened fire on the forward German positions. We only advanced a few miles that first day but that night Jerry crept away in the dark and from then on we were hot on the tail of his rearguards. The second day we chased him 60 miles, the third day 40 miles, the fourth day we were slowed up by the most atrocious going and rather harrassed by his Stukas but we covered another 30 miles or so and just failed to cut off his rearguards ... On the sixth day the tanks mopped up Tarhuna and we had a wonderful day of rest and that night slept for a few hours beneath the almond blossom.”

From their start they had covered 2000 miles, of which 200 had been on road and the rest across the desert. They could now make themselves a little more comfortable.

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<sup>371</sup> *The Second World War*, Winston S. Churchill, The Reprint Society, London, 1953, volume IV *The Hinge of Fate*, page 487.



“(26<sup>th</sup> January 1943) I have my officers mess tent and my own big tent inside a barn and the Italian farmer who lives a hundred yards away is very obliging. His wife takes our flour and bakes it into bread, he gives us the occasional chicken or turkey and his daughter irons my shirts and handkerchiefs.”

The pursuit continued until it came up against strong German positions in Tunisia, but slowly, in concert with the American advance from Morocco, the defence was overcome and Tunis taken.

“(Cable) Darling safe and well. Had grand party with Rommel. Don't think Rommel enjoyed it much . . .

(10<sup>th</sup> May 1943) As you will by now have heard, there is no enemy left in North Africa, so you can rest assured that I will not be fighting any more battles for some time, which I know will be very good news for you, my beloved one, and it will be a great relief after the anxious and worrying days you must have gone through. I must say, our Regiment has done its fair share since Alamein; we fired the opening round at Alamein and we fired the final round at Tunis . . .

(10<sup>th</sup> May 1943) On Friday afternoon at about 3 o'clock I entered the main streets of Tunis and I think I am right when I say that I was the first one to arrive there . . . I went on alone and got the most incredible reception. A vast mob of almost hysterical French were waiting and they quickly stopped my car. Roses showered from the balconies, bearded Frenchmen and pretty French girls clambered onto the car and throwing their arms around me kissed me on both cheeks . . . For two hours my car was immovably jammed in this huge crowd.”

### Italy

Just as his battery was to move to Italy, Kincaid went down with jaundice and he was out of action from early September until early November, when he eventually caught up with his battery in Italy. He immediately made both the officers and the men very comfortable.

“(1<sup>st</sup> December 1943) We threw a dinner party in the officers mess for the best looking of the local girls and the mayor, followed by a dance. The [local] cook surpassed himself at dinner, we had minestrone soup, spaghetti, fresh salmon, roast chicken and mushrooms, and cakes . . . we drank out of silver goblets.”

The defence of the Germans on the Gustav Line, with Monte Cassino at its centre, was ferocious. In early January 1944, he left the battery he had commanded for so long for a post as second-in-command of 7 Mountain Regiment. There is a gap in his letters between 28 January and 23 May, almost certainly due to the intense and desperate fighting in the mountains

around Monte Cassino, in the course of which he was mentioned in despatches.

“(23<sup>rd</sup> May 1944) I am afraid that you have had a beastly time with no news or letters but you must believe me when I say I haven’t been able to write. I’ve just come down to this camp from the mountains and found a pile of letters for me from you. I’m so glad that you got the lemons and dates that I sent from Algiers and that they hadn’t gone bad as I feared they might have done. I’m very fit these days as I’ve had a lot of walking and riding and the air up in the mountains is grand. It was terribly cold in March and the first half of April and the roads above 2000 feet were all blocked by snow drifts and even jeeps couldn’t get through, only horses and mules. I tried to do a reconnaissance in a jeep one day and got snowed up and had to dig out of drifts four times! After that I went on horse.”

The German resistance broke on 2<sup>nd</sup> June and two days later the Allies were in Rome. Two days after that, the Allies landed in Normandy and a new front was opened up. Kincaid had earlier applied for a place at Staff College at Camberley in England and now he heard that he had been accepted. He arrived home in July to begin the four-month course.

### **Requiem on the Rhine**

In January 1945, he was in Brussels on the way to a staff job. After some kicking of his heels, he was at last posted as a brigade major in 21 Army Group.

“(5<sup>th</sup> February 1945) Darling, tomorrow I take over my new job as BMRA, 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division. It sounds rather alarming but don’t worry, it may only be temporary and anyway I don’t expect they’ll do any more airborne operations yet. I am very glad as it is a grand division; all the men are specially picked volunteers and it will be almost better than the old 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division. I have been very lucky in my active service in the units and formations I have served in – 8<sup>th</sup> Armoured, 9<sup>th</sup> Australian, 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured, 7 Mountain Regiment, and now 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne – all first-class, picked bunches. Tomorrow I will be wearing a red beret.”

By February the Allies were hammering at the Rhine and at the end of March, 6<sup>th</sup> British Airborne Division went into action in their gliders across the Rhine to their landing area north of Wesel. In an undated letter, postmarked 29<sup>th</sup> March, for the last time he wrote home, in pencil on a small piece of squared paper:



“My own dearest Stella, Goodbye for the moment, my dearest. Remember I love you always and long to be with you. The memory of you and the knowledge of your devotion and your prayers for me will sustain me in our greatest fight.

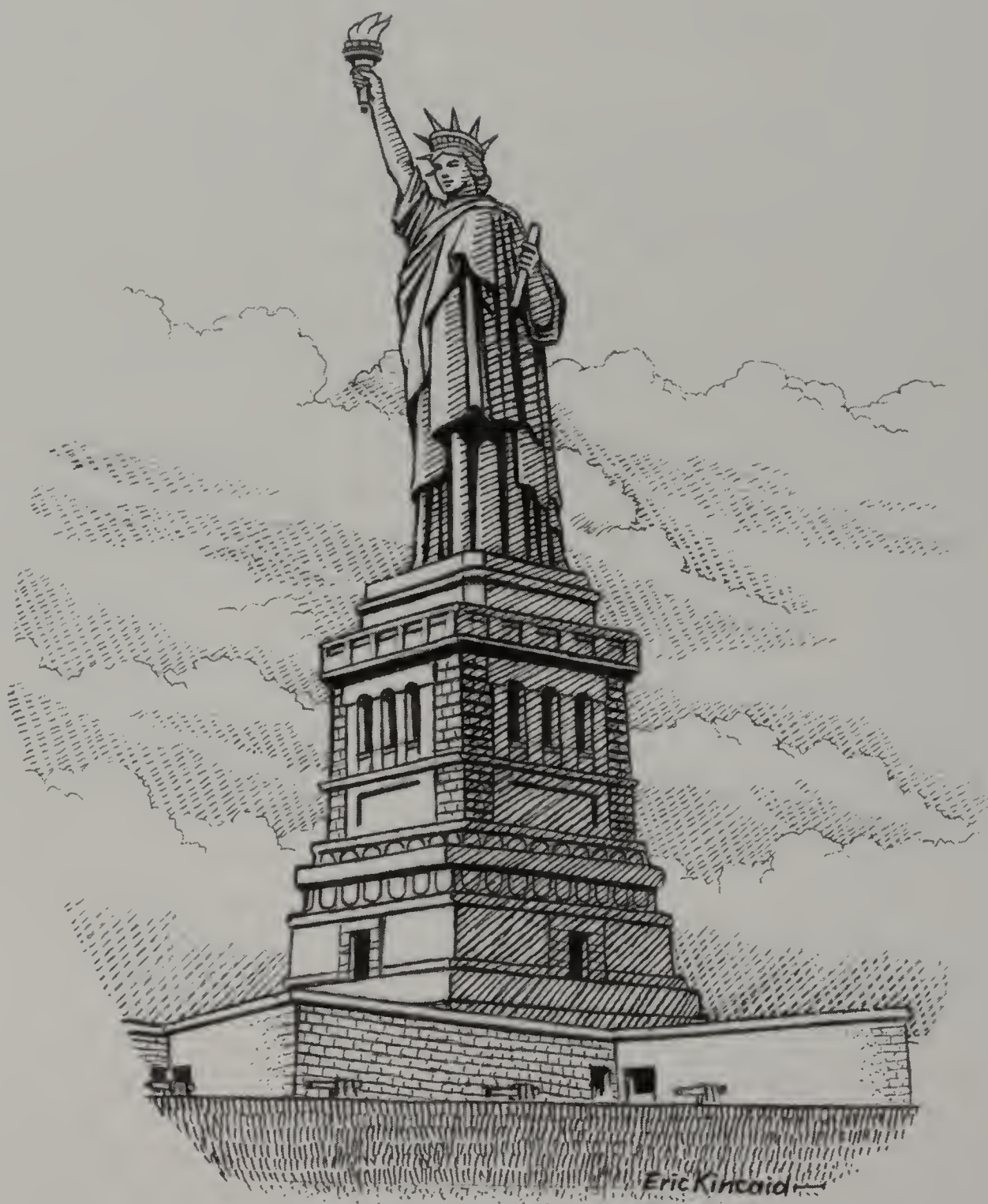
Your own devoted, Johnnie.”

Did he feel he was writing his own requiem? Hours later, he sustained fatal wounds.

My subject is War, and the pity of War.  
The Poetry is in the pity.  
*Wilfred Owen*







# CHAPTER TWELVE

## EMIGRATION

The Kincaids originated in Scotland and for many generations, almost without exception, lived solely in the central belt between Edinburgh and Glasgow. It was not until the 17<sup>th</sup> century that members of the family moved in any number outside the country: to England with the royal court of the Scottish king, who had become also the king of England with his court in London; and to Ireland – particularly those Kincaids who fought against James II after the revolution in 1688 had brought William III to the throne, although there seem to have been others with Jacobite (but probably not Catholic) sympathies who fought against Cromwell nearly 40 years before that and had settled in that country early in that century.

At one time it had been Scottish policy to sentence criminals to transportation to Ireland, but soon this was altered to destinations much further afield, such as Barbados and Jamaica. Emigration for political reasons, again mainly to Ireland, followed the revolution in 1688, and was renewed after the failure of both the ‘15’ and the ‘45’ uprisings, and the subsequent bloody retributions against Jacobites and Catholics. But few Kincaids seem to have been among them.

The great emigrations of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, caused by famine in Ireland and the Highland Clearances in Scotland, resulted in very large numbers of people of Scottish descent moving to North America to make a fresh start in lands of great opportunity. Again, comparatively few Kincaids suffered from starvation in Ireland and none lived in the Highlands, so the numbers emigrating were few and, in general terms, consisted of younger sons who wanted greater opportunities than Scotland or Ireland offered. Some settled in England, Australia, South Africa and other countries, but most went to Canada and the United States.

And there they thrived. By contrast, those that stayed in Britain and Ireland found their wealth declining and their hereditary lines becoming weaker through lack of heirs; by the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there were



comparatively few Kincaids living in Britain, and certainly considerably fewer than in North America.

The story of the North American Kincaids has yet to be pulled together from the myriad component parts of family research carried out by many individuals. Olivia Brisbin, for example, had by the 1970s proved the descent of over 4000 Kincaids from John Kincaid (1771-1814) who was born in either Virginia or Pennsylvania, married Nancy Young in 1797 in Greenbrier County, Virginia and moved to Campbell County Tennessee, but she had been unable to trace his parents and forebears or their arrival in America. Many of those descendants have matriculated their arms through the Office of the Lord Lyon in Edinburgh.<sup>372</sup>

The American Kincaids are a major area for future research – but by Americans, not those on the wrong side of the Atlantic. This book, then, cannot cover the story of American Kincaids in any coherent or comprehensive fashion. Nevertheless, no book on the Kincaids would be complete without a chapter that honours at least some of the Kincaids who have added a large and distinguished extension to the tale of an old family.

### Canada

The Reverend John Kincaid, who was Rector of Drumholm in Ireland from 1847-1883, was by all accounts a great scholar.<sup>373</sup> In March 1830, he presented a Bible to Patrick Kincaid (probably a cousin of some sort), who maintained it as a 'family Bible' inscribing births, marriages and deaths in it.<sup>374</sup> He starts with a quotation from the Bible:

"The sleep of the Labouring man is Sweet, whether he eat little or much. But the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep. Ecclesiastes 5 c – 12 v."

This quotation may have been selected because Patrick was struggling financially, as indeed the majority of Irish people were.

Patrick Kincaid, as is recorded in his Bible, married Ann Love on 6<sup>th</sup> January 1818 and had eight children: John, father of William Kincaid of Ypsilanti, Michigan; Christen, who looked after the motherless children when they crossed the Atlantic to Canada; Andrew, who never married; James, who had four sons (Joe, Wallace, James who was known as 'Divil Jim'

<sup>372</sup> Letter from Olivia Brisbin to the author 17 September 1966.

<sup>373</sup> See Chapter Seven.

<sup>374</sup> A copy of the entries in the Bible was sent as an enclosure in a letter to the author from Hilda Kincaid (a descendant of Patrick Kincaid), of Galt, Ontario, Canada, 11 November 1966.

being well-built and a good ‘river driver’, and Jack who was said to be the inventor of a type of water wheel for power); Alexander, who married Mary Jane Reid and was a farmer; Robert, who was kicked in the face by a horse, walked half a mile home and died the next day; William, who married Mary Ann Barry, had three sons and two daughters and settled on the farm known as the ‘Homestead’; and Joseph, who became a blacksmith in Ontario.<sup>375</sup> He records deaths:

“My mother departed this life June 13<sup>th</sup> – 1831  
 Father March 10<sup>th</sup> – 1835  
 And with sorrow to pen down my Wife June 10<sup>th</sup> 1842.”

He records that his brother Andrew and his two daughters set sail for America on 13<sup>th</sup> May 1838 with Captain Strong in the brig *Ann*, and that Andrew was followed by another brother Robert and family in the ship *Spring Hill* 12<sup>th</sup> June 1842 with Captain Wilson,

“And Ann Inter’d the Same day to my Sorrow – Patrick Kincaid, Drimcroil.”

The parish registers of Drumholm record that Robert, Andrew and Patrick were sons of John Kincade and Ann Coulter, and record a Thomas Kincaid who may have been another of his sons. Robert married Anne Young and had four children: Eleanor, Elizabeth, Robert and Catherine. Andrew married Elizabeth McLintock and had one daughter, Catherine. Thomas married Jane McCreedy and had three children: William, John and Margaret.

Patrick’s family Bible records that Andrew and his two daughters set sail for America, but there is no mention of Andrew’s wife. It is possible that she had recently died and that this prompted him to start a new life in the New World. And maybe it was Patrick’s sorrow at losing his wife and the coincident departure of his brother Robert, which moved Patrick to follow his brothers to Canada where they did indeed make a new start, buying large farms in Ontario.

Robert Kincaid died in Ontario in 1863 and is buried alongside his wife Elizabeth Ann.<sup>376</sup> It seems that she was his second wife, his first wife Anne Young apparently predeceasing him.

Professor Trevor Kincaid was descended from Robert. Trevor was born in 1872 and stated that:

<sup>375</sup> The details of Patrick’s children were set down in a letter from Alma Moorcroft (a descendant of Patrick Kincaid) to Olivia Brisbin in 1968.

<sup>376</sup> Letter to the author from Alma Moorcroft (a descendant of Patrick Kincaid), 14 January 1969.



"My father Robert Kincaid was born in Donegal, Ireland. His father was a farmer. During the famine time in Ireland his father died and his wife<sup>377</sup> with several children immigrated to Canada where some relatives were already living; the family settled in Peterborough, Ontario. My father became a doctor and practised in Peterborough till 1888, when he left Canada and settled in the town of Olympia . . . My father's brother was an architect and builder. My father's mother had inherited a sizable annuity from her father's estate and thus the family were well provided for . . . My father seldom spoke of his family life in Ireland . . . The only person he mentioned that appeared to be related to him in Ireland was a minister, the Vicar of Drumholm. His name escapes me, but it was either John or James Kincaid."<sup>378</sup>

This was written by a man of 96 years old, but there is no reason to believe that the facts in his letter, except one, are incorrect. Professor Trevor's father was Dr Robert Kincaid, who was the son of Robert Kincaid, whose departure for America was recorded by Patrick in his family Bible. The professor states that his grandfather Robert (brother of Patrick) was a farmer. This was a terrible time for farmers in Ireland: unrest was rife until Catholic emancipation was pushed through Parliament against considerable opposition in 1828; the Corn Laws kept the price of bread artificially high; and crop failures, potato blight and famine brought misery to all but the richest. To many, farmer and labourer alike, the future in Ireland seemed bleak indeed. In 1846 alone, more than 100,000 Irish people emigrated to America.

Trevor Kincaid was born in Peterborough in Ontario on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1872, the son of Dr Robert and Margaret Kincaid. He attended Washington University where he read biology. He became acting Professor of Entymology at Oregon Agricultural College from 1897-1898 and was the entymologist on the Harriman Alaska Expedition in 1899. He returned to the University of Washington as assistant Professor of Biology in 1899 and twelve years later became Professor of Zoology. In 1906 he was Austin Scholar, Harvard. He became a special field agent of the US Department of Agriculture in Japan in 1908 and the following year in Russia where he investigated parasites of the gypsy moth. He wrote many papers, mainly relating to the Pacific coast, Alaska and the oyster industry.

For much of his life he lived in Seattle. He married Louise Pennell and they had six children: Marjorie, Dorothy, Barbara, Thomas, Mary and Kathleen.<sup>379</sup>

<sup>377</sup> He appears to have got this wrong as it was his mother who died and his father who, with his children, crossed the Atlantic.

<sup>378</sup> Letter from Professor Trevor Kincaid to Hilda Kincaid, March 1969.

<sup>379</sup> Details taken from *Who Was Who*, quoted in a letter from Hilda Kincaid to the author 13 April 1969.

### United States

There are records in Ireland of Kincaids who emigrated to the United States, and records in the USA of Kincaids who had been born in Ireland, but matching the two together, other than by name and birth date (where recorded) is difficult. It is a similar story with Kincaids who emigrated from Scotland.

“The earliest Kincaid known to have come to America was David Kincaid who came to Boston, Massachusetts, in 1683. In 1684, he removed to Oyster River, New Hampshire, where he married Anna Jenkins, widow of Steven Jenkins who had been killed by Indians at the time that their children were taken into captivity. In 1708 Indians fired on David and his lad, Napthali. In 1717, Napthali m. Christian Rand. David was killed by Indians in 1722. Napthali was killed by Indians in 1745. In 1747 James Kincaid, son of Napthali and Christian Rand Kincaid, was killed by Indians.”<sup>380</sup>

This was hardly an encouraging start for Kincaids in the New World, but it did not stop them coming. Other early Kincaids suffered from other causes.

“My great-grandfather James Kincaid was born in Belfast, Ireland 1753; married Jane D. McMorris in 1774 and settled on Mill Creek ... Captain Kincaid died in Charleston, S.C. of yellow fever in 1801 and is buried in the Scotch Presbyterian Church in Charleston. His widow Jane died May 16 1828.”<sup>381</sup>

Joseph Kincaid was another to have been born in Ireland. He became a captain in the Virginia militia and died at about the age of 32 at the end of the War of Independence against the British.<sup>382</sup> The cause of death is not recorded; could he have died of wounds received the previous year at Yorktown, or some other action at the end of the War?

Another veteran of the War of Independence was James Kincaid who was born in Co. Tyrone, Ireland in 1762. He enlisted in York District, South Carolina in May 1780. He then moved to Tennessee, and then to Buncombe County, North Carolina. His claim for a pension was rejected because he could not prove six months' service.<sup>383</sup> Another record, which seems to refer to the same man, states that he was married to Susannah Black, who also came from Co. Tyrone.

<sup>380</sup> Letter from Olivia Brisbin to the author quoting from a document entitled *A Few Kincaids who were in America before the Revolutionary War*.

<sup>381</sup> Ibid, quoting from a letter on file at the Pension Bureau from Mrs Elizabeth Kincaid Goodlett, 9 December 1911.

<sup>382</sup> *Revolutionary Soldiers and Patriots*, Order Book 1781-1813, page 7.

<sup>383</sup> *Revolutionary War Pension File*, R-5929, National Archives, Washington.



The gravestones of a William Kincaid and his wife Agnes, stand in Deerfield Cemetery in Greenbrier County in West Virginia. It gives his birthdate as 1729 in Ireland. It is tempting to tie this to William Kincaid, son of the Reverend Joseph Kincaid:<sup>384</sup>

“My grandfather had five or six brothers, three emigrating to America . . . My uncles, William and Robert, settled in Virginia and married there . . . and there is nothing traced after they arrived in Virginia.”<sup>385</sup>

Unfortunately, the dates do not fit as General William's uncle William would have been born some twenty years later than the William buried in Deerfield Cemetery.

Fifteen years before General William's correspondence with Professor Trevor Kincaid, the General's father Joseph Kincaid in Ireland had been in close contact with Charles E. Kincaid from Kentucky. They believed that they were closely related.<sup>386</sup> Charles Easton's great-great-great grandfather had been born in Ireland sometime around 1700, and had two brothers, David and James, but their father's name is not known. Sometime before 1747, he arrived in Albermarle County, Virginia with his family, which included his son, John, and his two daughters Ruth (who married Andrew Grier) and Joan or Jean (who married Hugh Alexander).

John, born in Ireland sometime around 1730, became a captain in the Army. In 1778, he moved with his wife Margaret and his family from Virginia to Madison County, Kentucky. His two sons were military men as well. Captain Joseph Kincaid was killed at the head of his company at the battle of Blue Licks in 1782 towards the end of the War of Independence against the British. His brother, Captain James Kincaid, served in the Virginia State line in the same war under General George Rogers Clark.

Captain James Kincaid had at least four sons – Joseph, Harvey, William and John. Harvey and William moved to California, where Harvey became a judge. Harvey's sons, Cambell and Harvey, were both lawyers and moved to Washington. William was a member of Congress, Joseph was a doctor and John a judge.

Judge John Kincaid practised law at the Stanford Bar for six years and represented the county in the State Legislature. Later he was a member of Congress. He died in 1873. His son, William Garnett Kincaid, attended West Point Military Academy, where he shared a room with Ulysses S. Grant, who was later to become the Commander-in-Chief of the Union forces during the Civil War. Kincaid was an officer on the staff of General Zachary Taylor

<sup>384</sup> See Chapter Seven.

<sup>385</sup> Letter from General William Kincaid to Professor Trevor Kincaid c. 1900.

<sup>386</sup> A paper with extracts of their correspondence, sent to the author by Mary Sidgwick (related to Isabella Style who was John Henry Kincaid's first wife), 5 April 1968.



(later President of the US) during the Mexican War of 1848-1850. He became a lawyer. He was the father of Charles Easton Kincaid who corresponded with Joseph Kincaid in Ireland in 1885.<sup>387</sup>

It is impossible to identify, with any certainty, Charles Easton's great-great-great grandfather, Joseph, with an ancestor of his correspondent Joseph Kincaid in Ireland. However, if they were both descended from the Kincaid who arrived in Ireland in 1689, then Charles Easton's ancestor Joseph could only have been the brother of James Kincaid, father of the Reverend Joseph Kincaid.<sup>388</sup>

It has already been noted that James Kincaid of Dalgreen, near Falkirk, may have emigrated to America after being branded by the government a rebel who "drank to the damnation of His Majesty",<sup>389</sup> but if he did, it seems that he returned to Scotland shortly afterwards. It is possible that he visited Virginia as his sister, Katherine, who may have accompanied him, was married to John Wyse and there is a John Wise in Virginia at about the same time. But again there is no proof.

There were of course many other Kincaids who emigrated from the British Isles about this time and in the succeeding decades. There is much work still to be done before the full story is pieced together. It is, however, important in a family history to record those American Kincaids who have risen to prominence.

A word or two about spelling. The name exists in many different spellings: Kincaid, Kinkaid, Kincade, Kinkade, Kinkhead, Kinkead. The variations are of no significance in the distant past when spelling was generally at the phonetic whim of the clerk recording the deed. However, as time went on, the spelling of the family's name became more consistent within a particular branch. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century each branch had its own spelling and this was handed down from generation to generation. So, a person who spells his name Kincaid today is unlikely to be the direct descendent of a Kinkhead from 1750. Their common ancestor is likely to have lived before (perhaps well before) that date.

### **Governor John Henry Kinkead**

Another immigrant from Strabane in Co. Tyrone in Ireland was James Kinkead, a clock and watchmaker, who in March 1765 moved his business

<sup>387</sup> Details of Charles E. Kincaid and his antecedents take from the following sources: (1) *History of the Ohio Falls Counties*, 1882, Volume I, pages 541, 542, 908; (2) *History of Albemarle Co. Virginia*, Rev. Edgar Woods, Charlottesville, 1901; (3) *Albermarle Co. Will Book*, Volume 2, page 303; (4) Letters from Charles E. Kincaid to Elizabeth Shelby Kincaid 1887-1902.

<sup>388</sup> See the tree of the Irish Kincaids in Genealogical Table 8.

<sup>389</sup> See Chapter Five.



into Front Street near the Drawbridge in Philadelphia.<sup>390</sup> He married Margaret Liggett in 1765 and they had at least two sons, James and Joseph.<sup>391</sup>

James junior was a civil engineer who built all or nearly all of the bridges on the first Federal Highway project authorised by Congress in 1806: from Baltimore to Ohio. James married Margaret Evans and the family moved to Ohio.<sup>392</sup>

Their son, John Henry Kinhead became a salesman in a large jobbing dry-goods store in St. Louis, Missouri in 1844.<sup>393</sup> Five years later, he formed a partnership with J.W. Livingston and, establishing themselves in Salt Lake City, they built up a large trade in dry-goods. Thereafter, engaged in various pursuits, he moved to California and then New York City. In the wake of the discovery of silver mines in Utah, he set up business in Carson City and was active in the movement to create the commonwealth of Nevada. When in 1861 the territory was formed from the western part of Utah, he was elected territorial treasurer and was a member of the convention that framed the present constitution of the state.

At that time, Russia had been in occupation of Alaska for many decades and the Tsar's territorial claims had at one time stretched from Alaska down the Pacific coast to California. But in 1867 the Russians agreed to sell the remote region to the United States for \$7,200,000. John Henry went with the 'occupancy' expedition to witness the transfer of the territory. He remained in business in Alaska for three years before returning to Nevada where he set up in the mercantile, mining and milling business.

In 1879, he became the third Governor of Nevada but in 1883 declined the offer of re-election. In 1884, the President appointed him Governor of the newly created State of Alaska. He returned to Nevada in 1885 and the following year married Lizzie Fale.

### Inventors

John W. Kincaid is credited with being the inventor of the first automatic locomotive stoker. Born about 1868, he became at the age of eighteen an employee of the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad at Hinton, West Virginia. While there he conceived his idea and, completing a model, sought financial backing. He formed a partnership with J.H. Day, the head of a machinery manufacturing firm in Cincinnati, to form the Day-Kincaid Stoker Company to manufacture his invention. He died in Cincinnati in 1936.<sup>394</sup>

<sup>390</sup> Advertisement in *the Pennsylvania Gazette*, 14 March 1765.

<sup>391</sup> *Pennsylvania Archives*, Second Series, Volume II, Pennsylvania Marriages.

<sup>392</sup> Letter from Olivia Brisbin to the author 15 October 1968.

<sup>393</sup> *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, James T. White & Co, 1909, 11:201.

<sup>394</sup> *New York Times*, 1 August 1936, page 13, column 3.

Geoffrey R. Kinkead, a designer and mechanical engineer, is credited with developing the percussion cap used in detonating hand grenades in the First World War. Born in about 1880, he became a vice-president of Browne & Sharpe, toolmakers, of Providence, Rhode Island. During the war, he became a master mechanic for the Gorham Silver Company and it was here that he developed the percussion cap. After the war, he worked as a mechanical engineer for the Aluminium Company of America in New Jersey. He and his wife Emily had a son, Hubert, and a daughter. He died in 1952.<sup>395</sup>

### Early Transatlantic Flights

Thomas Harold Kinkade of Wyckoff, New Jersey, gained international attention for his role in the first transatlantic flights. Known as 'Doc', he was service engineer for the Wright Aeronautical Corporation and supervised the final inspection of the Wright Whirlwind motor used in Charles Lindberg's 'Spirit of St Louis' for his historic flight across the Atlantic in May 1927.

'Doc' was engineer for Commander Byrd's transatlantic flight in *America*, and is credited with saving the aircraft from damage. While he was working inside the plane, sudden strong winds lifted the craft off the ground. Grabbing the controls, he literally flew the plane by working the ailerons and elevator to keep the plane stable. He then gently eased the aircraft back to the ground when the wind dropped. Later that day, he was ordered to France to supervise the return flight. He was going to travel on the *America*, but at the last minute decided to make the journey by sea on the liner *Roosevelt*. This was lucky as the *America* had to ditch in the sea.

'Doc' played a significant role in other historic flights. He was in charge of the mechanics and supervised the final tests for Commander Byrd's flight over the North Pole. He was also the engineer for Charles Levine's *Columbia*, and oversaw Levine and Chamberlain's flight to Germany in the Bellanca aircraft.<sup>396</sup>

### United States Naval Officers

Captain Earl H. Kincaid was also an inventor. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1919, and in 1924 published the *Pilot Chart of the Upper Atmosphere*. He is credited with inventing the Navy Static recording machine, described as a forerunner of radar.

In 1938, he served on the staff of Admiral H.E. Yarnell, Commander-in-Chief of the Asiatic Fleet and from 1940 to 1941 he was commander of

<sup>395</sup> *New York Times*, 22 November 1952, page 3, column 3.

<sup>396</sup> Most details taken from *New York Times*, 16 June, 24 June and 30 June 1927.



the Navy Service School at Newport, Rhode Island. During the operations to liberate the Philippines in the Second World War, he commanded the naval facilities in the Solomon Islands from the base at Bougainville, where he was known as the "Commander of the Bougainville Navy".<sup>397</sup> He was awarded the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf, the Bronze Star, the Army-Navy-Marine Corps Medal and other decorations. He retired in 1945. He married Virginia Morris and died in 1961.<sup>398</sup>

Thomas Wright Kinkaid was born in Cincinnati in 1860, the son of William P. Kinkaid and Susan Monahan. He joined the US Navy and graduated from the Naval Academy in 1880. He was promoted to assistant engineer in 1892 and to lieutenant in 1899, after service aboard the *Machias* during the Spanish-American War. He was promoted lieutenant commander in 1902 and, after service aboard *Oregon* he was fleet engineer in the Asiatic Fleet in 1904, before being posted to a shore job at the Navy Yard at Norfolk, Virginia.

He was back at sea as fleet engineer in the Pacific Squadron in 1906-1907, but then returned to shore jobs at Chester and Norfolk again. In 1907, he was promoted to the rank of commander and to captain in 1911, on appointment as head of engineering at the Experimental Station at Annapolis. In 1917, he was appointed Commandant of the Experimental Station in the rank of rear admiral. He died in 1920.

He had married Virginia Lee Cassin in 1883, and they had a son and two daughters. Their son was Thomas Cassin Kinkaid and he was destined for an even more distinguished career in the United States Navy. Born in 1888, he graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1908, and began a career in gunnery, serving aboard the battleship *Nebraska*, the battleship *Minnesota*, the gun boat *Machias* (on which his father had served in 1898) and the battleship *Pennsylvania* in the years from 1908 to 1917. During the First World War he was a naval attaché in London. In 1918, he returned to sea aboard the battleship *Arizona*.

During the Second World War, before the entry of the United States, he was naval attaché in Rome where he must have gained a good knowledge of the course of the war, particularly in Europe. But it was not in the European or the Atlantic theatres in which he was destined to fight, but in the Pacific. He was promoted to the rank of rear admiral in November 1941, a month before the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbour. Legend has it that Kinkaid left for a command in the Pacific twenty minutes after the word of the attack on Pearl Harbour had reached the White House.

<sup>397</sup> *History of United States Naval Operations in World War II*, Samuel Eliot Morison, Oxford University Press, London 1959, Volume XIII, page 95.

<sup>398</sup> Except where stated, details taken from the *New York Times*, 15 December 1961, page 37, column 5.



Admiral Kinkaid is the subject of Spotlight IX, but the bare bones of his part in the war in the Pacific are as follows. He commanded the aircraft carrier *Enterprise* group in air attacks on Japan and in actions in the Gilbert and Marshall Islands. His *Enterprise* group played a crucial role in the pivotal Battle of the Midway.

After Midway, he commanded Task Force 16, the *Enterprise* group, during the actions at Guadalcanal, the Eastern Solomons, Henderson Field and Santa Cruz between August and November 1942, and was awarded his second Distinguished Service Medal in January 1943.

Promoted to Vice Admiral, he took command of the United States Seventh Fleet. During the landings on the Philippines he was in charge of the whole landing force until it was ashore, using aircraft carriers as part of the escort fleet, a decision that General McArthur said was the best Kinkaid had ever made. He was noted for being cool, unruffled and precise, even under extreme pressure.

Later he landed American forces in Korea and was one of those who accepted the surrender of Japanese forces there. After the war, he was Commander of the Eastern Sea Frontier until he retired in 1950. He married Helen Ross, but they had no children. He died in 1972.<sup>399</sup>

### William Kincaid, Flautist

One of the very few Kincaids to have risen to the top in the Arts was William M. Kincaid who was principal flautist with the Philadelphia Orchestra from 1921 to 1960. Born in Minneapolis in 1895, he moved to New York at the age of seventeen to enrol in Columbia University as well as the Institute of Musical Art where he studied flute under the eminent French flautist, Georges Barrere. He graduated with an Artist's Diploma and from 1913 to 1918 played alongside his teacher in the New York Symphony Orchestra under Walter Damrosch.

In April 1921 he was summoned to Philadelphia by the conductor Leopold Stokowski to become the principal flautist of the Philadelphia Orchestra, a position he held until his retirement in 1960. In 1950 he received the C. Hartman Kuhn Award for "the member of the Philadelphia Orchestra who has shown ability and enterprise of such a character as to enhance the standard and reputation of the Orchestra".

In 1928 he joined the faculty of the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Over many decades he nurtured outstanding flautists who, at

<sup>399</sup> Details taken from (1) *History of United States Naval Operations in World War II*, Thirteen Volumes by Samuel Eliot Morison, Little Brown & Co, Boston; (2) *Dictionary of American Biography*, Ed. Kenneth T. Jackson, New York 1994; (3) *New York Times*, 19 November 1972.



one time, filled most of the first-flute positions in American symphony orchestras as well as key teaching positions. He also taught many distinguished soloists and chamber music players. He became a member of the Philadelphia Woodwind Quintet at its inception in 1950.

### Australia

Australia had never attracted settlers from Britain in the numbers that had sought a new life in North America. Initially a large proportion of those who arrived down under were criminals sentenced to transportation, but by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century this had ceased. Robert John Kinkead from Limerick in Ireland was one of those who set out on the long journey by boat to travel halfway round the world to a new life. Leaving his father Samuel Kinkead, a farmer and blacksmith, and his mother Johanna Walsh in Limerick, Robert set sail for Australia on the ship *Light Brigade* in 1867 at the age of 21. He married Mary Jane McNamee with whom he had eleven children and then two more with his second wife, Annie Cusack. But not all survived infancy.

One of his children, James John Benedict Kinkead, had an outstanding career as a barrister. Born in Cobar, New South Wales, he attended Riverview College where a debating trophy still carries his name, and where he was an organist and a chorister with a rich tenor voice. On leaving school, he took a job in the Sydney office of the Clerk of the Peace.<sup>400</sup> At the outbreak of the First World War, he joined the Light Horse, later transferring to the Camel Corps. He served throughout the Palestine campaign in which he acquired a reputation for gallantry and leadership, and where he gained the Military Cross and the rank of captain; but the hardships of the campaign took heavy toll on his fine constitution, causing him much suffering in later years. He ended his career in Egypt as Deputy Director of Army Postal Services in 1918.

In 1925 he was admitted to the Bar and his practice grew fast. Soon he had established a reputation as the ablest advocate in New South Wales.

“A man of bubbling personality, gentle humour and a court demeanour that often had a jury in the hollow of his hand, Jimmy Kinkead could spend one day in court defending a well-known business or social figure and the next fighting with all his legal skill for a criminal with a record as awesome as one of his own cross-examinations ... The presence of Jimmy Kinkead in a court was a guarantee to reporters that even the dullest hearing would be worth covering.”

<sup>400</sup> The details of the life and career of James Kinkead are taken from [www.genealogy.kinkead.net](http://www.genealogy.kinkead.net) which quotes a Daily Mirror article of 13 March 1961 and obituaries and memoirs in the *Riverview College* magazine.

Although a hard hitter, he was so inherently fair that his name became a synonym for candour, truth and forthrightness. He had humanity – waitresses, court attendants and cleaners thought of him as a friend and when a burglar discovered whose house he had burgled, he returned the stolen goods the next night.

His greatest triumph was thought by many to be his successful defence in 1946 of a Sydney journalist, Douglas Morris, who was charged with murdering Mrs Jeanette Wicks.

“The trial aroused so much public interest that the famous barrister received numerous phone calls from people anxious to help. He even had a letter from an old lady who had spent days browsing through books in the public library and had stumbled on a case which the barrister used in his client’s defence.

Extraordinary scenes occurred in the courtroom when the jury returned, after an hour’s retirement, with a not guilty verdict. It took court officials all their time to quell the cheering inside and outside the court. After the case, Jimmy Kinkead admitted that it had been one of the most difficult he had attempted. He had spent sleepless nights over his client’s defence to check every detail. He spent hours with Morris in his cell, examining every aspect of the case and saturating himself with the atmosphere of the Morris family. He even tried a blood stained shirt on Morris as one of his experiments.”

He was pressed by many to take silk and become a King’s Counsellor, but he refused because he felt that many people requiring his services would not be able to afford the higher fees that he would have to charge. But, as he lay seriously ill in 1950, he was so appointed but died before he could wear the silk he so richly deserved.

Another who settled in Australia was Joseph Kincade, son of Robert Kincade who arrived in Ireland from Scotland in about 1850 and settled in Coleraine.<sup>401</sup> Joseph embarked on the *Duke of Devonshire* at Plymouth on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August 1883 and, fortunately for us, he kept a diary.

“Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> was a very nice day and a good many sick. We are on the Bay of Biscay. We had a very good singing and prayer meeting. We have a very fine steamship, a black crew. We get three meals a day, tea and bread for breakfast, potatoes and beef for dinner, coffee in the evening. Got to bed at 10 o’clock and got up at 6.0.”

The next day he reported that the people were on deck having got the better of their sea sickness. He marvelled at the fortifications of Gibraltar

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<sup>401</sup> See Chapter Seven.



and at Malta they had singing and dancing on board. The voyage through the Suez Canal and the Red Sea, dreadfully hot with no breeze and a temperature of 92 degrees, took a week. There were deaths on board.

“(31<sup>st</sup> August) We had a death from a child of about 12 or 13 months ... (7<sup>th</sup> September) Death of a married woman who died about 2 o'clock on Thursday night and was buried on Friday morning. There was a man fell overboard, a darkie sailor. The vessel turned back and a life boy was thrown to him but did not find him ... (9<sup>th</sup> September) A fine day – a child died and was buried at sea ... (27<sup>th</sup> September) Death of a child as was born on board.”

They stopped at Aden which Joseph thought very nice but very small. Here native boys came out in boats and dived for coins,

“... which they are very expert at. It is a very dry rocky place. The only rain about once every 2 or 3 years. Here we got leave to buy some fruit, lemons and coconuts, but very dear, you could buy them as cheap at home.”

After the heat of the Red Sea, he found more pleasant conditions ahead on the open ocean, where it was much cooler with gales. Each day they covered about 250 miles. On the 17<sup>th</sup> September they arrived in Colombo in Ceylon [now Sri Lanka].

“Come to Colombo about 12 o'clock. This is a very nice place and very fertile. Here they grow all sorts of spices and fruits such as oranges and lemons, coconuts and different other sorts, also coffee and sugar ... There is a great number of inhabitants English and Scotch who trade in coffee and fruits which they can make a good living at ... It is the nicest place I've come to yet, it looks so nice and green with coconut trees growing along the shore as far as you can see. Here it is winter.”

But it was not winter as they were still north of the equator, although no doubt it seemed like it as it was cooler than the Red Sea had been. They 'crossed the line' four days after leaving Colombo, but he does not report any party or blooding of first-timers. They reached the myriad islands of the Dutch East Indies just a month after the island volcano of Krakatoa had erupted, killing an estimated 36,000 people and destroying 165 coastal villages. There is no mention of this in the diary, even though the ship passed very close to the disaster area, probably because the shocks that had passed through the air and water had subsided well before they reached the area. Or did the captain not know about the disaster?

Sensing journey's end, they seem to have come alive.

“(2<sup>nd</sup> October) A fine day and all well. We had athletic sports such as running, jumping, sack race and such like . . . (6<sup>th</sup> October) Had a concert on board, a farewell one as we expect [to be at] Cooktown before we could have another.”

They harboured at Thursday Island, off the northern tip of Queensland, on 8<sup>th</sup> October.

“Came to port at 11 o’clock. Here we got our first view of Queensland, it is all wood. There are about 100 inhabitants. 3 or 4 came on board who were here about 3 months and gave a very good report of it . . . the magistrate lady came on here offered a pound a week for a young girl as servant all found but there was none to go as they were all going to friends . . . The mate offered a bottle of porter and a glass of grog to each emigrant who would volunteer to [unload?] cargo but they would not do it. They offered to do it for a shilling an hour but he would not give it.”

The ship then negotiated the Torres Strait, a dangerous passage full of rocks and small islands, which made it necessary to take a pilot on board and anchor at night. On 12<sup>th</sup> October they arrived in Cooktown, a small town on the north-east coast of Queensland, where they were informed by the immigration officials that there was not much work and that those who had no friends there should go on to Brisbane. He remained on board and continued his journey, which ended on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1883, after nearly two months on board. He does not mention his port of disembarkation, but it seems to have been Townsville.

Joseph married Emma Vergo a few years later and they had one son, Robert, and three daughters. Robert had one son, Ronald, who had two daughters, so the name Kincade is only carried on within this branch through second or third Christian names of Joseph’s descendants through the female lines.

### South Africa

In 1880 the Transvaal, which had been settled by the Boers after the Great Trek out of the Cape Colony in South Africa in 1829, became a British colony although its internal affairs were left to the Boers. All might have been well, had not immense goldfields been discovered just a few years later. As in North America, the lure of the precious metal drew hordes from far and wide, particularly from Britain and this influx overwhelmed the primitive world of the Boer farmers. Foreign expertise and investment developed the minefields and quickly turned Johannesburg into a city. Even though they were contributing 95 per cent of the Transvaal’s income, the Boers, heavily outnumbered and looking to protect their pastoral way of life, refused to give the ‘uitlanders’ any political rights. Friction grew.



One of those drawn to the Transvaal goldfields was Samuel Kinkead from Ballycastle in Northern Ireland. Accompanied by his wife Helen Calder, a Scot, he travelled by ox wagon to the spreading shanty town around Johannesburg, Helen travelling with a gun hidden up her skirt. Sam speculated in property and at one time owned a great deal of land, but unfortunately died on a downswing.

Helen had great determination even in old age. At the age of 93 her daughter Nora refused to take her to a wedding. Waiting until Nora was out of the house, Helen walked down to the bus stop where she persuaded a passing motorist to drive her to the wedding.

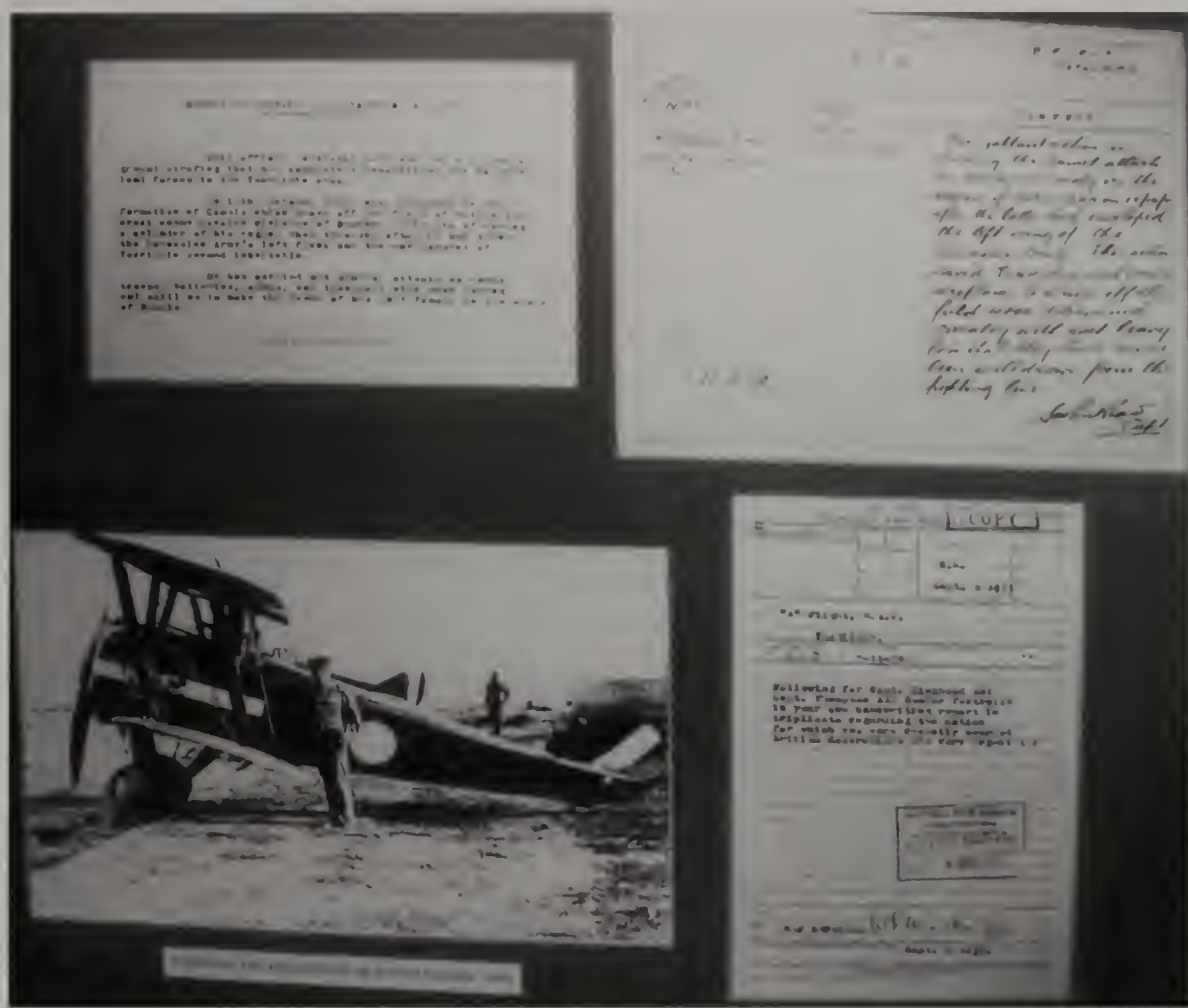
Sam and Helen had two sons and two daughters. The younger son, Samuel Marcus (but known throughout his adult life as 'Kink') left South Africa for England as soon as he was eighteen, thirsting to fly. His training was complete by the end of 1915 and, as a second lieutenant in the Royal Naval Air Service, he served for a while in the Dardanelles, but stricken by malaria, he was invalided home. No doubt stirred by Kink's war stories, his elder brother Thompson decided to follow his sibling to England where he joined the Royal Flying Corps. But then tragedy struck: Thompson was killed in a flying accident while still training.

Kink joined battle on the western front where he became one of those legendary air aces, winning the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) twice and the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) twice. By the time of the Armistice, he had shot down at least 30 enemy aircraft. He then went to Russia to fight with the White Russians against the Bolsheviks where he again distinguished himself winning an immediate Distinguished Service Order (DSO).

As one of the most skilful high-speed, low-level pilots in the country, he was a member of the victorious Schneider Trophy team in 1927. The following year he made an attempt on the world air speed record. But again tragedy struck. Travelling at an estimated 330 miles per hour, his plane plunged into the water and he was killed instantly.

His death not only shocked the nation, but so wide was his fame, the world mourned his death as well. His extraordinary story is told in *Spotlight VIII*.

The early deaths of both Sam Kinkead's sons meant that there was no one within that branch to carry on the Kinkead name. Kink's younger sister, Nora, pursued a career in the South African post office, becoming a senior civil servant; she was social, smart, fond of travelling, but she never married. His elder sister Vida, however, did marry. Her husband was Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Weekes who had won a Military Cross. They had three sons and it was through them that Kink's family name survived. Although it is not clear whether it was because of a request from some public body or because Helen Calder thought that the Kinkead name should not die out, the Weekes family now changed their surname to Kinkead-Weekes.



‘Kink’ - the air ace  
(Top) Illustrations from the White Russian campaign in the Kinkead Room at Calshot  
(Bottom) ‘Kink’ in front of his plane



Vida's eldest son Dennis ran away to sea from school at the age of twelve, but was inevitably found and brought back to finish his education with the promise of a sea-going career when it was complete. He had just earned his Second Mate certificate when the Second World War broke out. Hurriedly joining the South African Navy, at that time a very small outfit, he served in the Mediterranean and the campaign in Greece. He continued his naval career after the war to reach the rank of commodore and attain the appointment of Chief of Staff.

Vida's second son Noel, or 'Bobby' as he was known, also fought in the Second World War as a bomber pilot. While flying over Vienna, heavy flak crippled his plane. Three members of the crew baled out, but the rear gunner was unable to do so as the turret rotation system was jammed. Bobby then skilfully crash-landed the aircraft in Czechoslovakia and both of them survived. Imprisoned in Stalag Luft One and then Stalag Luft Three, Bobby was liberated after a year by a Russian cavalry unit, and he travelled on a tank with them to Austria. He found it difficult ever afterwards to talk of the war because, it is believed by his younger brother, of the unspeakable experience of that journey which included the liberation of a concentration camp. After the war he joined Anglo-American and headed a number of mining companies.

Bobby had been a Rhodes Scholar and his younger brother, Mark, gained a Rhodes Scholarship too, a remarkable double which, although not unique, is highly unusual. Mark was too young to fight in the war, being only fourteen when it ended. Gaining his bachelor degree at the University of Cape Town, he arrived in England on his Rhodes scholarship to attend Brasenose College Oxford where he gained his master's degree in English literature. In 1956 he became a lecturer in English at Edinburgh University and then a senior lecturer at the University of Kent at Canterbury from 1965 to 1974. He was elected professor of English and American literature in 1974 and became professor emeritus in 1984.

Mark Kinkead-Weekes has written a number of books on some of the giants of English literature, including *William Golding: a Critical Study*; *Samuel Richardson: Dramatic Novelist*; and *D.H. Lawrence: Triumph to Exile 1912-1922*. He is a world-recognised expert on the subject of D.H. Lawrence and William Golding and a Fellow of the British Academy.

Bobby's son Roddy was a fine cricketer, the only Kincaid of whatever spelling to have played in the first-class game, although his career was short. He played for Oxford University and for Middlesex as a wicketkeeper and a lower-order batsman. He too has made a career in mining companies, including for many years Rio Tinto Zinc, specialising in the mining of aluminium.







Samuel Marcus 'Kink' Kinhead  
*By kind permission of the Fleet Air Arm Museum*

# **Spotlight VIII**

## **‘Kink’: Pilot Extraordinary**

Samuel Marcus Kinkead, always known in adult life as ‘Kink’, was eighteen when he arrived in England from South Africa to join the Royal Naval Air Service in September 1915.<sup>402</sup> By the end of that year, he had learned to fly and he then served with No. 3 Naval Wing in the Dardanelles until November 1916 when, after a severe attack of malaria, he was invalided home.

### **The Western Front**

It was in September 1917 that his glory days really began, when he was promoted to flight lieutenant and joined No.1 Squadron RNAS, which later became 201 Squadron RAF, on the formation of the Royal Air Force from the Royal Naval Air Service and the Royal Flying Corps in 1918. He was at the Somme in 1917 where, in his Sopwith Triplane, he shot down six enemy aircraft. He was then moved to the Ypres front, where No. 1 Squadron was re-equipped with the famous but tricky Sopwith Camel, and achieved five ‘kills’ in three weeks. Malaria re-appeared but, after a period of home sick leave, he returned to claim more ‘kills’. He continued to down enemy aircraft until the end of the war, when he had brought his ‘kills’ tally up to 30. In the eight-and-a-half months between 22<sup>nd</sup> February and 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1918, he was decorated four times. The citations make remarkable reading.

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<sup>402</sup> Most of the facts about Samuel Marcus Kinkead are taken from two main sources: Articles and appreciations produced by Dr Julian Lewis MP for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Service at Fawley, Hampshire 12 March 1998 and for the 2001 edition of *30 Squadron Journal*; and from the website <http://www.alphalink.com.au/~kincaid/notable.htm>.



**“Distinguished Service Cross (DSC)**

In recognition of the conspicuous gallantry and skill displayed by him in the face of the enemy in aerial combats, notably on the following occasions. On the 24 October 1917, he brought down an enemy machine, and immediately afterwards encountered and drove off a group of seven hostile aeroplanes. On the 4 December 1917, he brought down an enemy two-seater machine completely out of control. By his skill and determination in attacking enemy machines he has always shown a fine example to other pilots.”

*DSC citation, London Gazette, 22 February 1918.*

**“Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) Bar**

For the skill and courage displayed by him as a pilot. On the 22 March 1918, he attacked and drove down out of control an Albatross scout, which was attacking a French machine. He has brought down many other enemy machines. He is an exceptionally good pilot, and a clever and plucky fighter, and has performed very fine work, both on offensive patrols and on low flying missions.”

*DSC Bar citation, London Gazette, 26 April 1918.*

**“Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC)**

A skilful and gallant leader, who has attacked enemy formations superior in numbers with marked success. In a recent engagement, his patrol flew to the assistance of some of our machines which were greatly outnumbered by the enemy, and succeeded in accounting for three enemy machines and scattered the remainder.”

*DFC citation, London Gazette, 3 August 1918.*

**“Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) Bar**

On a recent date, this officer engaged a large party of troops in a wood. The engagement lasted for an hour, but so persistent was his attack that the enemy broke and dispersed. During the attack he was harassed by six hostile scouts. Later on he shot down an enemy two-seater in our lines. A bold and daring airman.”

*DFC Bar citation, London Gazette, 2 November 1918.*

**With the White Russians**

He then joined 47 Squadron in Russia in support of the White Russians fighting the Red Army.

“Desperate battles were being fought by White Russian forces against the Bolsheviks. Britain’s involvement was politically controversial and there was pressure for the RAF detachment to be withdrawn. Officially it was disbanded but, almost without exception, the officers and men of Kinhead’s flight volunteered to continue their campaign under cover of what was supposed to be a training mission.

“Kink’s 100-strong Flight ranged across southern Russia on a specially adapted train from which the [Sopwith] Camels could quickly be disembarked and made ready for action. When the White Russian offensive collapsed in 1920 he and his men escaped by the skin of their teeth as a remarkable book, *Last Train over Rostov Bridge*, published in the early 1960s, relates.

His immediate DSO [Distinguished Service Order] in the field was won in October 1919 when he and another Camel pilot dived to within ten feet of the ground and drove four thousand charging Bolshevik cavalrymen from the field of battle, inflicting enormous casualties. This saved the city of Tsaritsyn (later Stalingrad) from being overwhelmed.”<sup>403</sup>

The citation for his Distinguished Service Order stated:

“This officer initiated here and led a system of ground strafing that has completely demoralised the Bolshevik forces in the Tsaritsyn area. On 12 October 1919, near Kotluban, he led a formation of Camels which drove off the field of battle the crack enemy cavalry division of Dumenko (despite having a cylinder of his engine shot through) after it had turned the Caucasian Army’s left flank and the envelopment of Tsaritsyn seemed inevitable. He has carried out similar attacks on enemy troops, batteries, camps, and transport with such daring and skill as to make the deeds of his unit famous in the whole of Russia.” *DSO citation, London Gazette, 1 April 1920.*

It was this technique that was to be so ruthlessly adopted by Germany at the beginning of the Second World War.

His confidential reports were outstanding, and included the following statements:

“An excellent officer ... Keen, plucky, hard-working, and thoroughly reliable ... Very unassuming ... One of the best type of successful Service pilots ... Exceptionally efficient ... Brilliant pilot ... Excellent in every respect.”<sup>404</sup>

### High-Speed Flight

On his return from Russia, he became an instructor at the Royal Air Force College at Cranwell. He then served in Iraq where on one occasion he landed to rescue the crew of a downed RAF plane and took off with the bullets of hostile tribesmen whistling around their ears. In 1927, he was a member of the victorious Schneider Trophy Team at Venice, winning the admiration of all spectators. One account reported:

<sup>403</sup> *Kinhead – the Air Ace on the Waterside*, Julian Lewis, article in *30 Squadron Journal* 2001.

<sup>404</sup> Appreciation by Julian Lewis MP at Kinhead’s 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Service, 12 March 1998.



“So evenly did he make the turns and so exactly did he maintain his height of a few feet from the water, that it appeared as if his machine were running on rails. It was discovered after the race that a serious defect had developed in his machine and that, if he had abandoned the race an instant later than he did, a disaster would have been inevitable.”<sup>405</sup>

Although, during training, Kink had covered the circuit at an average speed of 523 km/hr – the first time a human being had exceeded 500 km/hr – he was unable to complete the race due to a defect with his machine. His compatriots, however, came first and second and Britain won the Trophy.

He then set out to gain the world speed record, again flying a Supermarine S5, a forerunner of the Spitfire that was so vital to Britain's defence in 1940. On 12<sup>th</sup> March 1928, in very cold weather, he made the attempt:

“Came the day, and ‘Kink’ took the S5 out in a flat calm. Onlookers felt that he had a little difficulty in taking off, having to exceed 100 mph on the water before attaining lifting speed. On his second attempt he got off early, before flying over the Isle of Wight and turning to come down towards Calshot, the start of the three kilometre measured course. As he neared Calshot Light, the machine dived into the water from a height of 50 feet, disappearing in a shower of spray.”<sup>406</sup>

‘Kink’ was killed instantly. The reason for the crash was never established, but his death shocked the nation, even the House of Commons pausing in its business to pay tribute. The *Aeroplane* magazine said:

“To his friends, and even acquaintances, Kinkead was always known simply as ‘Kink’ – a singularly inapposite, if obvious nickname, for never has there been a man who made more of a habit of thinking straight, talking straight and living straight. If ‘Kink’ had any enemies, one has never met any of them. All who knew him admired him equally as a pilot, as a fighting man and as an individual.”

The daily papers carried the news of his death, and senior airmen paid tribute.

“Air Marshal Sir John Salmond, the commander of the air defences of Great Britain, was silent for some moments when the news of Flight Lieutenant Kinkead's death was telephoned to him by the Daily Express last evening. ‘It is very sad,’ he said. ‘It was not in the least expected. Kinkead was one of the finest pilots there has been or probably ever will be in the Air Force. I knew him

<sup>405</sup> Appreciation by Julian Lewis MP at Kinkead's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memorial Service, 12 March 1998.

<sup>406</sup> *Lyminster Times*, Saturday 21 March 1998.

well in Iraq, and I feel his death as a personal loss. Everyone had a tremendous regard for him. He was a wonderful pilot and an admirable officer.”<sup>407</sup>

The president of the Royal Aeronautical Society said that he was one of the few pilots in the world capable of handling these very difficult high-speed craft. And his death had an impact in other countries. The French Minister for War said that his loss would be deeply felt by all Frenchmen, while in Italy the Under Secretary for Air hastened to the Chigi Palace to inform Mussolini.

Another gallant air ace of the First World War summed him up in the following words:

“When Kinkead, still a flight lieutenant, went deep into the Solent in his Supermarine S.5 late in the afternoon of March 12, 1928, when attempting to beat the world’s speed record, the Royal Air Force lost, without doubt, its finest junior officer.

He was remarkably brave, a brilliant pilot, ideal leader, and straight as a die in all his dealings with his juniors and seniors. He was modest in the extreme and such was his tremendous personality that everyone who came in close contact with him looked upon him as someone apart from his fellow-officers.

Each thought that his friendship was theirs alone: something so precious that others could not possibly have it.

I think it is quite unnecessary to say any more than this about the award of decorations or promotion: Kinkead did not receive any decorations or promotion for his magnificent peace-time work. He was junior to officers who were unworthy of cleaning his shoes.”<sup>408</sup>

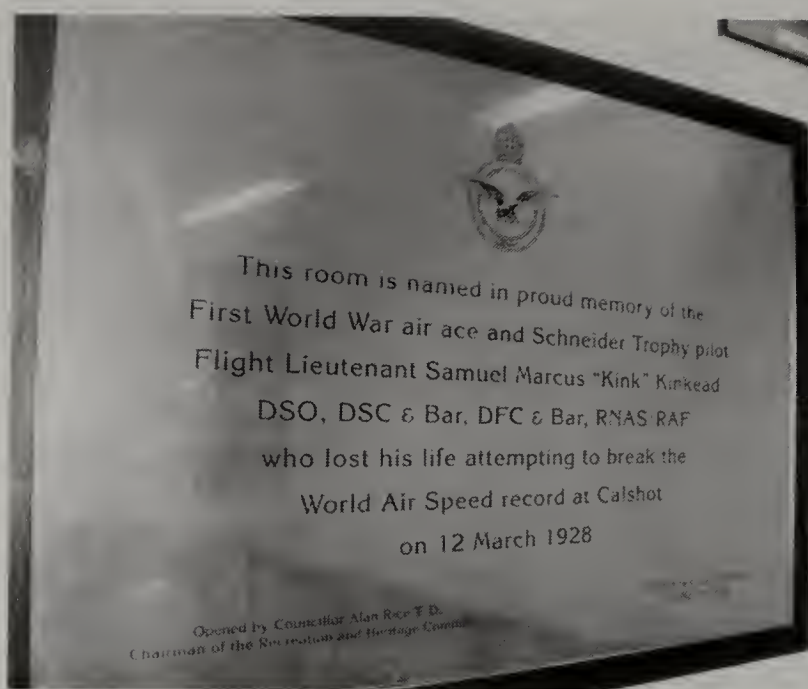
### Memorials

Today, he is remembered through the silver trophy, surmounted by a model Supermarine S5, which was donated by his family and friends. The trophy was first awarded in 1929 and presented annually to the best flight cadet squadron. In 1958, it was decided that, to give greater recognition to the award, it would become an individual award and is now awarded each year to the officer who is placed first in the combined final order of merit for flying and associated ground school studies for that year’s intake at RAF Cranwell. Since 1998, ‘Kink’ has also had a memorial overlooking the site of the fatal crash at Calshot, where the original aircraft hangar now forms part of Hampshire County Council’s Activities Centre. In it, the main conference room is named the Kinkead Room and ‘Kink’ memorabilia cover a whole wall.

<sup>407</sup> *Daily Express*, 13 March 1928.

<sup>408</sup> *An Air Fighter’s Scrap-book*, Ira ‘Taffy’ Jones, 1938.





### 'Kink's' memorials

(Top left) Kinkead Room dedication plaque

(Top right) Royal Air Force Cranwell's Kinkead Trophy

(Bottom left) Mark Kinkead-Weekes (left) and Julian Lewis with 'Kink's' medals in front of the painting of 'Kink' in the Kinkead Room at Calshot

(Bottom right) Gravestone in Fawley churchyard

There is yet another memorial to 'Kink'. At a ceremony on 12<sup>th</sup> March 2003, his nephew, Professor Mark Kinkead-Weekes presented a cheque to the Rector of All Saints' Church, Fawley (where 'Kink' is buried) to pay for the costs of floodlighting the church on each anniversary of his death for at least the next one hundred years.







Admiral Thomas Cassin Kinkaid

## Spotlight IX

# Admiral Thomas Cassin Kinkaid

Legend has it that Admiral Kinkaid left Washington for command in the Pacific twenty minutes after word of the Japanese attack on the US Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbour reached the White House on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1941.<sup>409</sup> This attack propelled the United States into the Second World War. Despite the loss of the greater part of the Pacific Fleet and the temporary dominance of Japan in that theatre, Admiral Kinkaid was, within a month, raiding the Japanese-held islands of the Gilbert and Marshall groups, leading the naval task force headed by the *USS Enterprise*.

Thomas Cassin Kinkaid was born in 1888 in Hanover, New Hampshire, the son of Rear Admiral Thomas Wright Kinkaid and Virginia Lee Cassin, and entered the United States Naval Academy at the age of sixteen. Graduating from there in 1908, he began a career in ordnance and gunnery aboard the battleship *Nebraska*. Over the next seven years, he served aboard the battleship *Minnesota* (1910-13), the gunboat *Machias* in 1914 and the battleship *Pennsylvania* (1916-17). On the entry of the United States into the First World War in 1917, he was assigned as a naval attaché in London, working with the British Admiralty.

The war over, he returned to sea and served as the gunnery officer on the battleship *Arizona* from 1918 to 1919. The next ten years saw Kinkaid in a wide variety of posts, in shore duties, various sea commands and on the naval staff. In 1929 he attended the senior course at the Naval War College and then attended the Geneva Convention. He was Executive Officer on the *Colorado* from 1933 to 1934 and on the *Indianapolis* from 1937 to 1938.

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<sup>409</sup> Much of this chapter is based on two main sources: the 15-volume work *History of United States Naval Operations in World War II* by Samuel Eliot Morison, Boston and London, 1947-1960; and the website [www.alphalink.com.au/~kincaid/notable.htm](http://www.alphalink.com.au/~kincaid/notable.htm)



By now the clouds of war were again gathering over Europe as Germany seized the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia, annexed Austria and invaded Czechoslovakia. Although Hitler was now clearly threatening the whole continent, the Munich Agreement of 1938 and Neville Chamberlain's assertion that it meant 'peace in our time' raised false hopes. But for only a short time. Kinkaid became naval attache in Rome, a post he held from 1938 to 1941. Although the United States was not a belligerent during those years, he must have gained a very clear understanding of the course of the war in Europe and seen naval strategy and tactics evolving.

### Pearl Harbour and Midway

But it was not the European or Atlantic theatres where he was destined to serve when the United States entered the war after Pearl Harbour, but the Pacific. It was fortunate that, although seven of the eight battleships and many of the other ninety ships present at Pearl Harbour were destroyed when the Japanese struck, the aircraft carriers had been elsewhere. Promoted to the rank of rear admiral, Kinkaid commanded the *Enterprise* aircraft carrier group. His first action was the bold air attack on Tokyo in April 1942, although this meant that he was unable to take part in the battle of the Coral Sea, the first naval battle in which surface ships did not exchange a shot.

However, the *Enterprise* was to play a key role at the crucial battle of the Midway at the end of May. Midway Island was an essential objective if Japan was to dominate the central Pacific, as from there they could threaten Pearl Harbour itself. The stakes were enormous, and the Japanese were riding high on a string of victories in Asia. When the Japanese fleet appeared, it was Kinkaid's carrier, the *Enterprise*, which launched the initial air attacks on the Japanese carriers, three of which were sunk. A fourth was also sunk by aircraft from the *Enterprise* a few hours later and the Japanese were forced to withdraw from their attempt to capture the island. Midway proved to be one of the turning points of the war, at once reversing the dominance of Japan in the Pacific. United States forces had triumphed partly through the success of their Intelligence Service which succeeded in penetrating Japan's most closely guarded secrets, partly through their lead in radar technology but also through the courage and determination with which their pilots pressed home their attacks.

"The annals of war at sea present no more intense, heart-shaking shock than these two battles [Coral Sea and Midway], in which the qualities of the United States Navy and Air Force and of the American race shone forth in splendour. The novel and hitherto utterly unmeasured conditions which air warfare had created made the speed of action and the twists of fortune more intense than

has ever been witnessed before. But the bravery and self-devotion of the American airmen and sailors and the nerve and skill of their leaders were the foundation of all.”<sup>410</sup>

Admiral Kinkaid was one of those leaders.

### Command of the US Seventh Fleet

After Midway, he commanded Task Force 16, the *Enterprise* group, during the actions at Guadalcanal, the Eastern Solomons, Henderson Field and Santa Cruz between August and November 1942, and was awarded his second Distinguished Service Medal in January 1943. Promoted to Vice Admiral, he took command of the United States Seventh Fleet. He was described as cool, softly spoken, bushy eyebrowed and was noted for being unruffled and precise, even under extreme pressure:

“He was highly appreciated by General MacArthur; the more so because, while accepting a subordinate role under the theatre commander, and the Navy’s primary duty to serve the Army, Kinkaid always spoke his mind ... Kinkaid was a methodical fighter and a first-class organizer, rather than a spectacular leader ... that was just what MacArthur wanted and valued.”<sup>411</sup>

Navy legend has it that he relaxed during lulls in the victorious battle of Leyte Gulf off the Philippines by reading a detective novel. He took charge of the plans for the invasion of the Philippines and had responsibility for the whole landing force until it was ashore. He had already had experience of command of both sea and land forces during the actions to dislodge the Japanese from the Aleutians.

“Under Rear Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid, an experienced commander who had fought the Japanese in the South Pacific, relations between the Army and the Navy improved greatly ... Admiral Kinkaid, after consultation with DeWitt and Buckner, relieved General Brown [the land force commander] ... Fortunately, this drastic move did not impair the harmony between the Services.”<sup>412</sup>

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<sup>410</sup> *The Second World War*, Winston S. Churchill, Volume IV – The Hinge of Fate, London, 1951, page 216.

<sup>411</sup> *History of United States Naval Operations in World War II*, Samuel Eliot Morison, London, Volume XIII, page 215.

<sup>412</sup> *The US Army in World War II, The War in the Pacific, Strategy and Command: The First Two Years*, Louis Morton, Department of the Army, Washington D.C., 1962, pages 427 and 430.



### The Philippines

In the Philippines the Americans achieved total surprise; the Japanese had expected them to land at Mindanao, but the landings took place at Leyte some 300 miles to the north. The next step was debated heatedly, but finally it was decided to concentrate on liberation of the Philippines, with landings at Mindoro and Lingayen on the main island of Luzon. Kinkaid's Seventh Fleet was to embark, transport, land and support the Sixth Army. It then appeared that the Army Air Force was not able to cover the landings at Mindoro satisfactorily.

"General MacArthur then turned to Admiral Kinkaid: what could he do to fill the gap? The Admiral – after a private conference on the porch with one of his staff and with a member of Admiral Halsey's staff who was present – decided that it was a 'good fighting proposition' to use escort carriers, much as he disliked the idea; and he so decided. General MacArthur remarked that it was the 'best decision' that the Commander Seventh Fleet had ever made'. Admiral Kinkaid then organized a combat force of unusual composition – six escort carriers, three battleships, three heavy cruisers and about eighteen destroyers – to cover the transports from Leyte to Mindoro, and back to Leyte."<sup>413</sup>

Although the Americans had overall superiority at sea and in the air, the Japanese still posed a major threat. At the time they had a quarter of a million men holding Luzon, the main island of the Philippines; there were 70 airfields from which they could operate their several hundred aircraft;<sup>414</sup> and they had at sea the superbattleship *Yamato*, five other battleships, four carriers, four heavy cruisers, about thirty-five destroyers and forty-three submarines. The operations however were bedevilled by that new weapon, the kamikaze or suicide pilot. According to Kinkaid:

"A skilful pilot, intent on crashing [onto] a ship, is almost certain to succeed if unopposed by anti-aircraft fire, regardless of what maneuvers the ship attempts. Therefore, the chief advantage of maneuvering is to unmask the maximum number of guns, and to present a narrow target in range, since an error in judgement by the pilot is more likely to result in overshooting than in a deflection error."<sup>415</sup>

<sup>413</sup> *History of United States Naval Operations in World War II*, Samuel Eliot Morison, London, Volume XIII, pages 10-11.

<sup>414</sup> Estimates vary from 100 to 600 planes, but Kinkaid's Intelligence estimate of 405 is probably about right.

<sup>415</sup> *History of United States Naval Operations in World War II*, Samuel Eliot Morison, London, Volume XIII, page 148.

The kamikaze attacks caused considerable damage to the ships of the Seventh Fleet and complicated the landings in the Philippines, but they could not be continued indefinitely as they were very wasteful of aircraft and trained pilots. In one attack, for example, the Japanese lost four planes with their pilots and caused only three deaths and some damage to one ship of an empty convoy. But in other raids, they caused more deaths and greater destruction, and in all, during the Luzon campaign, the United States and Australian navies lost more than 2000 men killed, most of them to kamikaze attacks.

### **Japanese Surrender**

Kinkaid continued to command the Seventh Fleet during the many amphibious operations leading to the final liberation of the Philippines and Borneo, and was promoted to the rank of admiral on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1945. Admiral Kinkaid was one of those who accepted the surrender of the Japanese forces in Korea, where his fleet had landed American troops. After the war he was appointed commander of the Eastern Sea Frontier, with headquarters in New York, a post he held until he retired in 1950.

He had married Helen Sherbourne Ross in April 1911, but they had no children. He had two sisters, one of whom was married to Rear Admiral Kimmel, commander of the American fleet at Pearl Harbour at the time of the Japanese attack in 1941. Admiral Kinkaid died in November 1972 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. In 1976 a destroyer was named *USS Kinkaid* in his honour.





## CHAPTER THIRTEEN

# THE KINCAIDS TODAY

William George Peareth Kincaid-Lennox, the Laird who died in 1934, had two sons and three daughters. His elder son, William, succeeded his father as the Chief of both Lennox and Kincaid, but in 1959 Lord Lyon King of Arms decided that one person could not be the Chief of two different clans. Accordingly his younger brother, Alwyne, was proclaimed Kincaid of Kincaid.

Alwyne had already emigrated to Kenya in 1926,

“... and have lived here ever since (once in Africa it is difficult to leave!). After World War Two I turned my farm ‘up-country’ into a company and I now live in Mombasa on the coast of Kenya. Since horticulture was always my life interest, I accepted a post as Parks Superintendant with the Municipal Council. This appointment ‘keeps the wolf from the door’ (financially) and affords me a great interest; having reached the age of 55 and a bachelor it is not always easy to find an appointment which combines interest with pleasure.”<sup>416</sup>

Although in the war he had been mentioned in despatches for distinguished service with the East Africa Intelligence Corps,<sup>417</sup> he did not see himself as the quintessential Chief.

“I have neither the stature nor the presence of a Chief, being a very quiet and unassuming person devoted to horticulture ... I have horticulture contacts all over the world.”<sup>418</sup>

On his death he was succeeded as the Kincaid of Kincaid by his niece, Heather, who was the only child of Alwyne’s elder brother William. She was much more interested in family matters and the Kincaid of Kincaid

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<sup>416</sup> Letter from Alwyne Kincaid of Kincaid to Olivia Brisbin, 14 October 1959.

<sup>417</sup> *London Gazette*, 8 July 1943.

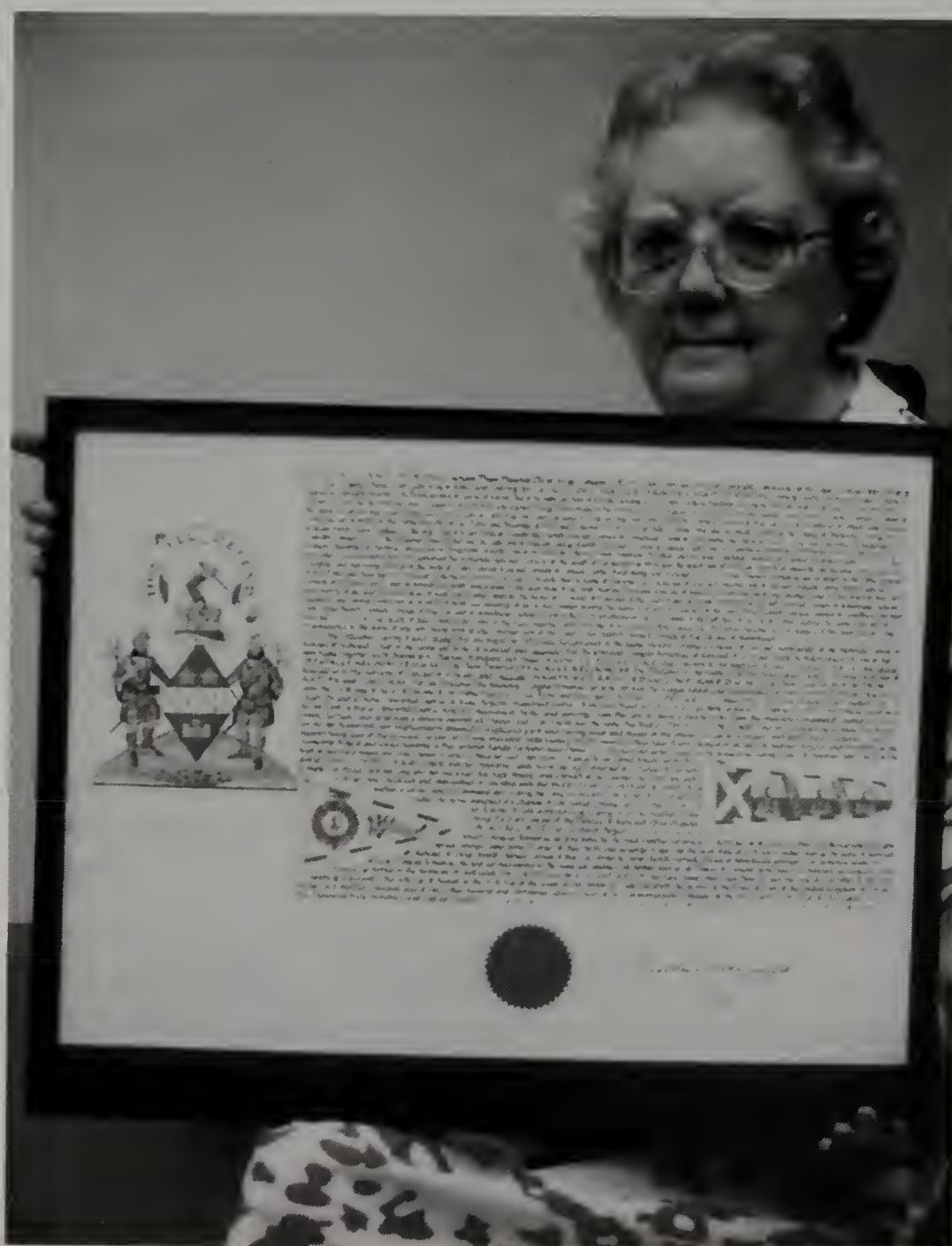
<sup>418</sup> Letter from Alwyne Kincaid of Kincaid to Olivia Brisbin, 11 February 1960.





By the KING'S Order the name of  
Major A.C.P. Kincaid Lennox,  
East Africa Intelligence Corps,  
was published in the London Gazette on  
8 July, 1915,  
as mentioned in a Despatch for distinguished service.  
I am charged to record  
His Majesty's high appreciation.

Secretary of State for War



Recent Kincaid's of Kincaid

(Top) Alwyne Kincaid of Kincaid's mention in despatches

(Bottom) Heather Kincaid of Kincaid with her arms

card-index of family members was started by her. She had married Lieutenant Commander Dennis Hornell who was tragically killed in action in the battle of Crete before the birth of their only child, Denis Peareth Hornell, who assumed the name Lennox around the time of his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, and became Chief of Lennox, styled Lennox of that Ilk (and of Woodhead). He married Jane Logan Batters in 1964 and they had three children: Arabella Jane Kincaid, Edward James Hornell (now Lennox of that Ilk) and Amanda Louise Peareth. Denis married, for a second time, Angela Saunders and they have one daughter, Lavinia: a play on the ancient word for Lennox – “Levenax”.<sup>419</sup>

Arabella, born at home on the family's Shropshire estate in August 1965, worked in London after completing her education at a finishing school in the Swiss Alps. In March 1995, she married Captain Giles Inglis-Jones of the Grenadier Guards who was working as an equerry to Prince Philip, but he has since left the Army. They now live in a 17<sup>th</sup> century Shropshire farmhouse with their three children: John Angus Kincaid, Jessie and Isabella. On her grandmother's death in August 1999, Arabella became Kincaid of Kincaid. She plays a full and active role in Clan matters.

Of what sort of a family is she now head? It is, of course, difficult to answer this with any clarity for, as with any family, it is made up of a multitude of disparate individuals, rich and poor, clever and stupid, generous and mean, with the inevitable black sheep. Generalisation is difficult, but perhaps not impossible.

The family has never had any great luminaries: no Wellington or Shakespeare, no Churchill or Lincoln. Nor indeed anyone who sat a little below these seminal figures. The Kincaids have played a lesser role in the history of their countries, but many have contributed greatly to the common cause. Decency, determination and the love of adventure would seem to have been common traits over at least the last three hundred years.

Public service also appears to have been a common theme, whether in the military, the legal profession, surgery or the civil service, and of these the military theme is perhaps the strongest, although this may be an error of perception because military records are more detailed and extensive. Artisans and merchants, too, have been plentiful, but only in small businesses; large industrial enterprises run by Kincaids have been rare. Many have sought new lives in new lands: North America, South Africa, Australia, Argentina, Holland and elsewhere, while others have travelled and worked abroad before coming back to Britain to make use of their acquired experience.

One American Kincaid to return to the old country was William Kincaid who, in 1909, founded the Spirella Company of Great Britain for the

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<sup>419</sup> Much detail in this chapter on the Kincaids of Kincaid was supplied to the author by Madam Arabella Kincaid of Kincaid, March 2003.



manufacture of made-to-measure corsets. At the height of its success in the 1950s the company employed 2000 staff and sold 200,000 corsets a day.

“[The garments] were fitted at home by the company’s army of 6000 ‘fashion consultants’ or measured up at the corset parlour in Bond Street. Spirella provided corsets for members of the royal family, Mae West and Marilyn Monroe. The company’s success was reflected in the care taken of the workforce, which consisted mainly of local women from Letchworth [in Hertfordshire, England]. The Spirella factory had a ballroom for social functions, provided a hot midday meal for the staff and a wardrobe of raincoats, which could be hired at 1d [one penny] a day.”<sup>420</sup>

During the 1939-1945 war, corset production gave way to the manufacture of parachute canopies. The war over, corset manufacture rose to its highest level, but new materials and styles soon made the old-style corset redundant and the company closed in 1989.

For obvious reasons, this book has been written in chapters that look at the family branch by branch. While this clarifies relationships within each branch, it makes it difficult to see how the different branches may have interacted. It is interesting to speculate on Kincaids meeting in unlikely places.

For example did James Kincaid of Kincaid and Thomas Kincaid, the surgeon, meet and talk of family matters when they journeyed south with the Army of the Covenant to fight against Charles I in England? Did John Kincaid-Lennox of the 12<sup>th</sup> Lancers run across John Kincaid-Smith in the Crimea? And did Kenneth Kincaid-Smith discuss family matters with Charles Kincaid while both were besieged in Ladysmith? And surely David Kincaid, Constable of the Castle of Edinburgh in 1542, would have met Thomas Kincaid of Kincaid when the latter attended Parliament as Deputy-Constable in 1542, but what did they talk about? The family, the castle, parliament or the rising tide of Protestantism that was about to sweep away Roman Catholicism as the religion of Scotland?

Although they may have opposed each other on occasion – perhaps in Ireland in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, perhaps during the War of Independence in The United States – they have more often made common cause in national and international crises. In the Second World War, while Admiral Thomas Kinkaid was winning naval battles against the Japanese in the Pacific, Major John Kincaid was playing his part in defeating the Germans in North Africa, Dennis Kinkead-Weekes was in the South African Navy in the Mediterranean, his brother Noel was a bomber pilot in Europe, Francis Kinkead was fighting with the Australian Army against the Japanese in New Guinea and many others were contributing around the world in a

<sup>420</sup> *The Daily Telegraph*, London, 30 November 1989.



Mae West wore Spirella corsets

variety of uniforms. And it was not only those in the Services who were contributing. In Scotland, the Greenock marine engineering company, John G. Kincaid & Co Ltd, were straining to produce the engines and fittings required to keep the merchant navy going during the Battle of the Atlantic.

Juxtaposition of events, too, is interesting. While John Kincaid of the Rifle Brigade was winning glory in 1812 by leading the storming party at Ciudad Rodrigo in Spain, a fire in a storeroom was destroying precious family papers and paintings while Kincaid House was being rebuilt. In 1600, John Kincaid of





The author with Arabella Kincaid of Kincaid and her children

Warriston was murdered by his wife, while in the same year and in the same city another John Kincaid abducted and held Isobel Hutcheon prisoner.

And what about the mass of Kincaids who have gone unrecorded, except perhaps in a parish register? How many of them would have come across Kincaids from other branches in unlikely places? We shall never know.

Four hundred years ago the Kincaids were almost entirely resident within a narrow strip of Scotland in the forty-five miles between Glasgow and Edinburgh. Then the diffusion began, first to England and Ireland, then to North America and Holland, and later to Australia, South Africa, Argentina, New Zealand and elsewhere.

There are still Kincaids in Scotland, but in fewer numbers than in earlier centuries, only about 80 appearing in the telephone directories, the vast majority living in Glasgow and the surrounding area, and almost all spelled the same: Kincaid. In Falkirk, the past home of one of the most dynamic Kincaid branches, there are none.

There is a similar number of Kincaids in Ireland, although here the spelling varies from Kincaid through Kincade, Kinkade and Kinkaid to Kinhead. Almost all live in Northern Ireland, only a handful in Eire. There is a similar number of Kincaids in England, so the total number remaining in the British Isles is probably under three hundred.

The centre of gravity of the Kincaids now lies in the United States where there are far more than this, many hundreds, perhaps thousands. It seems that the combination of high infant mortality, lack of male children and bachelorhood, which has dogged our family in this country over the last two centuries, disappeared when the Atlantic was crossed. Perhaps new horizons begat new energy.

This book has laid out what we know today of the Kincaids as a family, although much information that cannot be connected into the main branches has had to be omitted. There is much research still to be carried out, particularly in three main areas:

- We still know very little about the family prior to 1447 and are unsure of the exact origins of the family.
- The Irish branches need to be connected up with each other and with those who left Ireland to start new lives abroad.
- The story of the Kincaids in North America needs to be brought together from the myriad strands that individuals have researched.

Let us aim to make much progress in these and other areas by the time the next history comes to be written in twenty years or so.



GENEALOGICAL TABLES

GENEALOGICAL TABLE 1:	POSSIBLE DESCENT OF THE KINCAIDS OF KINCAID FROM THE SAXON EGFRITH
GENEALOGICAL TABLE 2:	KINCAIDS OF THAT ILK 1447-1615
GENEALOGICAL TABLE 3:	KINCAIDS OF COATES AND BROCHTON
GENEALOGICAL TABLE 4:	KINCAIDS OF WARRISTON AND AUCHINREOCH
GENEALOGICAL TABLE 5:	KINCAIDS OF KINCAID 1615-1797
GENEALOGICAL TABLE 6:	ONE BRANCH OF THE KINKEADS IN IRELAND 1776-2003
GENEALOGICAL TABLE 7:	A BRANCH OF THE KINCADES IN IRELAND AND AUSTRALIA c.1850-2003
GENEALOGICAL TABLE 8:	ONE IRISH BRANCH OF THE KINCAIDS 1689-2003
GENEALOGICAL TABLE 9:	KINCAIDS FROM FALKIRK c.1650-2003
GENEALOGICAL TABLE 10:	KINCAIDS OF KINCAID 1797-2003
GENEALOGICAL TABLE 11:	THE KINKEAD-WEEKES FAMILY

SYMBOLS:

<	before	d	died	c	circa
>	after	m	married		
b	born	=	husband/wife of		

ABBREVIATIONS:

1745	List of Persons Concerned in the Rebellion 1745	Nimmo	History of Stirlingshire, William Nimmo
Arms	Scottish Arms, Stodart	OEC	History of the Old Edinburgh Club
BaptC	Baptismal Records of Campsie	OPB	Olivia Brisbin
BGBG	Burgesses and Guild Brethren of Glasgow	PCamp	Parish of Campsie, Cameron
Brown	Monuments in Greyfriars Churchyard, Brown	PL	Peareth Ledgers
CalD	Calendar of Deeds	PRS	Particular Register of Sasines
Cassell	Cassell’s Old and New Edinburgh	PT	Criminal Trials in Scotland, Pitcairn
CommG	Commissariot of Glasgow	RE	Records of Edinburgh
CommS	Commissariot of Stirling	REA	Register of Edinburgh Apprentices
CPR	Campsie Parish Register	RegD	Index to Register of Deeds
CT	Campsie Tombstone	RGS	Register of the Great Seal
DAS	Domestic Annals of Scotland, Chambers	RPC	Register of the Privy Council
Diary	Thomas Kincaid’s Diary	RS	Register of Sasines
EMR	Edinburgh Marriage Register	Scottish	Calendar of Scottish Papers
ES	Edinburgh Register of Sasines	SD	Scottish Deeds
ET	Edinburgh Testaments	SHeirs	Service of Heirs
Fasti	Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanæ	Sk	History of Strathendick
Fowler	Protocol Book of John Fowler	SS	Secretary’s Sasines
GlasCo	Council at Glasgow	ST	Stirling Testaments
GR	General Retours	StatSS	Statistical State of Scotland, Sinclair
Gray	Short History of Edinburgh Castle, Gray	Stirlings CG	The Stirlings of Craigbarnet and Glorat
Greyfriars	Register of Interments in Greyfriars, Edinburgh	Stirlings K	The Stirlings of Keir
Groote	Protocol Book of Gilbert Groote	StirlS	Stirlingshire Sasines
HCT	Hamilton and Campsie Testaments	Strath	The Parish of Strathblane
Holyrood	Holyrood Rent Register	Sumames	Sumames of Scotland, Black
KilR	Kilsyth Rent Register	TCofG	Protocols of the Town Clerks of Glasgow
Laing	Calendar of Laing Charters	Thomis	Protocol Book of Nicol Thomis
Larbert	Larbert and Dunipace, Gibson	Treas	Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer
Lords	Acts of Lords in Council	TS	Protocol Book of Thomas Strathaucin
Lx Papers	Lennox of Woodhead Papers	Utah	Utah Genealogical and Historical Society
MC	Maria Carnegie	Wigton	Charter Chest of the Earl of Wigton
M-T	Major Maitland-Titterton	Yester	Calendar of Deeds at Yester House

EGFRITH, a powerful baron in Yorkshire and Northumberland  
d. c1064

ARCHILL, who fought William the Conqueror and then  
fled to Scotland where he was given land by King Malcolm  
d. c1100

ARCHILL  
d. c1130

ALWIN MACARCHILL  
First Earl of Lennox  
d. c1155

ALWIN  
Second Earl of Lennox  
d. c1217  
= Lady Eva, daughter of Gilchrist, Earl of Monteith

GENEALOGICAL TABLE 1

POSSIBLE DESCENT  
OF THE  
KINCAIDS OF KINCAID  
FROM THE  
SAXON EGFRITH

MALDOVEN  
Third Earl of Lennox  
d. c1270  
= Elizabeth Stewart,  
daughter of the High  
Steward of Scotland

MALCOLM of Lennox  
d. 1248

MALCOLM  
Fourth Earl of Lennox  
d. c1292

Dugald  
Aulay  
Christinus  
Duncan  
Eva

Malcolm  
Gilchrist  
Corc  
Henry

Aulay  
Duncan  
Dugald

Mary  
Elena  
Forveleth

Maldonius

Gillespie Galbrat

Maurice  
Arthur  
William

... KINCAIDS OF KINCAID

To Genealogical Table 2

NOTE:

A. Although this origin of the Earls of Lennox is disputed, it is accepted by William Anderson in his *Scottish Nation* and Sir William Fraser in *The Lennox*.

B. It is probable that Gillespie Galbrat was closely related to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl. It is probable that the first Kincaid of Kincaid was descended from Gillespie Galbrat, and/or was closely related to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Lennox, but there is no firm evidence for this.



From Genealogical Table 1

From Genealogical Table 3

WILLIAM of that Ilk and of Craiglockhart (1)

THOMAS of Coates  
Constable of Edinburgh Castle

ROBERT of that Ilk and of Craiglockhart (1,2,3,4,5,9)  
d. 1464-1480 (7)

WILLIAM of that Ilk (7,8,9,10,12,14,27)  
d.1497-1498 (13,14,16)

PATRICK of that Ilk (4,5,6,10,11,14,15,16,  
18,19, 20,21,22,23,24,30) d.1505-08 (23,24)  
= Egidie Houston (6,21,23) m.1475-1480 (6)

DAVID  
(4,5,15)

ROBERT  
(4,5)

JOHN  
(16,27,29?)  
Legitimated 1516

PETER  
(27)

ELIZABETH of that Ilk  
(18,19,24,25,30) m.by 1500 (18)  
d. 1508-1517 (25,26,28,31)

THOMAS of the Ilk  
(17,18,24,25,26,28,30,31,32,  
33,34,35,36,37,38,39,40,  
41,42,45,46,47) d.1561 (46)

Margaret Seton  
(31,35,36,37,45,46)  
m.1518 (31) d.1562 (46)

JAMES of that Ilk (Note B)  
(38,39,40,43,47,49,50,52,54,  
55,56,59,61,64,65,66,67,83)  
d.1604 (69)  
= Jonet Afleck (83)

LUKE  
(43)

ROBERT  
(43,52)

DAVID  
(43,45)

WILLIAM  
(43)

ANDREW  
(43)

Mause (17,43,83)  
= (1) John Stirling (17)  
= (2) John Bynnyng (83)

GEORGE (52)

JAMES of that Ilk  
(49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58,60,61  
62,63,66,67,68,70,72) d.1606 (74A,75A)  
= Christian Leslie m. by 1574 (54) d.1618-1622  
(53,54,58,62,63,66,67,68,70,75A,78,79)

MALCOLM  
(49,59,61)  
d.1581 (59)

THOMAS  
(61,81?,83)

Capt GEORGE  
(55,61,81)

ROBERT  
(55)

JAMES  
(79)  
Natural son

CHARLES (61)

Sir JAMES of that Ilk  
(66,70,72,73,74,75,76,77,81)  
b.<1574 (44,54) d.1615-18 (78,81)  
= Margaret Hamilton  
(66,75,78,79,80) m. by 1600 (66)

JOHN  
(75A,79,81,82)  
b>1586 (75A)

ANDREW  
(72,75A,79,82)  
b.1586 (75A)

JAMES of that Ilk (Note B)  
b.<1600 (66,80) d.1645  
=S----- D-----

NOTES:

- A. Thomas and Elizabeth married by 1500, so their son James would have been 104 when he died. This would seem unlikely, although not impossible. But it suggests that there may be another James Kincaid of Kincaid who was husband of Jonet Afleck, and that the James Kincaid who died in 1604 was married to the IF of the Campsie tombstone.
- B. There is no firm evidence that there was another James between James (=Margaret Hamilton) and James (=Jean Somerville), but the Campsie tombstone suggests there is.
- C. Numbers in brackets are references given overleaf.

To Genealogical Table 5

GENEALOGICAL TABLE 2

KINCAIDS  
OF THAT ILK  
1447 – 1615

REFERENCES TO GENEALOGICAL TABLE 2: KINCAIDS OF KINCAID 1447-1615

1. 1447	Robert, son of William of Kincaid of Craiglockart (Lx Papers)
2. 1450	Robert Kincaid of that Ilk witnesses charter (RGS)
3. 1450, 1458	Robert of Kyncade de eodem, witness (Surnames)
4. 1451	Robert of Kyncade of Craiglokkard, Sir William, chaplain, dwelling with him, Patrick, David and Robert, sons of the said Robert Kyncade, Donald of Kyncade and Robert son of Donald (Stirlings CG) <b>Note: Sir William, Donald and Robert his son not identified, but Donald could be Robert of Kyncade's brother</b>
5. 1464	Robert de Kincade of Craiglockhart; Patrick, David and Robert, sons of the said Robert, Donald de Kincade, Robert son of Donald (StirlingsK) <b>Note: Last two Kincaids not identified, but Donald could be Robert of Kincade's brother</b>
6. 1475	Patrick (later of that Ilk) married Egidia Houston between 1475 and 1480 (OPB)
7. 1480	William Kincaid of Kincaid (Thomis)
8. 1493	William Kincaid of Kincaid (RGS)
9.	William Kincaid of Kincaid succeeded Robert (OPB, M-T)
10.	William was succeeded by Patrick his brother (OPB, M-T)
11. 1496	Patrick Kincaid of Kincaid (Lords)
12. 1497	William Kincaid of Kincaid (RGS)
13. 1497-1505	William Kincaid of Kincaid died between 1497 and 1505 (OPB)
14. 1498	Patrick Kincaid of that Ilk, brother and heir of deceased William of Kincaid of that Ilk (Lords)
15. 1498	Laird of Kincaid and David Kincaid, his brother (Lords)
16. c.1500	John Kincade, son of deceased William Kincaid of that Ilk. Patrick Kincaid of that Ilk (PL)
17.	Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk's daughter Mause married John Stirling of Balquharrage (PL)
18. 1500	Elizabeth Kincaid de eodem resigned lands for a new infeftment to Thomas and herself (Fowler)
19. 1500	Elizabeth Kincaid, heir of her father Patrick (Fowler)
20. 1504	Patrick Kincaid of that Ilk (Fowler)
21. 1505	Patrick Kincaid de eodem and Egidie Houston his spouse (RPC)
22. 1505	Patrick Kincaid of that Ilk (RPC)
23. 1505	Patrick Kincaid of that Ilk and Giles (Egidie) Houston his spouse (RGS)
24. 1508	Elizabeth Kincaid of Kincaid and her husband Thomas Kincaid (RGS)
25. 1508	Elizabeth Kincaid of that Ilk and Thomas Kincaid her spouse (RGS)
26. 1515	Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk (Wigton)
27. 1516	Precept of legitimation to John and Peter Kincaid, natural sons of William Kincaid of Kincaid (RPC)
28. 1515	Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk – I believe he annexed the title after Elizabeth died between 1508 and 1515 (OPB)
29. 1516	It is possible that John (=Margaret Bellenden) (see Table 4) could be John, natural son of William Kincaid of K (OPB)
30. 1517	Elizabeth Kincaid, daughter and heir of Patrick Kincaid of Kincaid, and spouse of Thomas Kincaid of Kincaid (TS)
31. 1518	Margaret Seton, wife of Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk (RPC)
32. 1524	Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk (Wigton)
33. 1526	Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk (RPC)
34. 1531	Thomas Kincaid of Kincaid (RGS)
35. 1533	Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk and Margaret Seton his spouse (RGS)
36. 1534	Thomas Kincaid of Kincaid and Margaret Seton his wife (RGS)
37. 1537	Thomas Kincaid of Kincaid and Margaret Seton his wife (RPC)
38. 1538	James Kincaid, son and heir of Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk (PL)
39. 1541	James Kincaid, son and heir of Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk (RGS)
40. 1541	James Kincaid, son and heir of Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk (PL)
41. 1545	Thomas Kincaid of Kincaid (Wigton)
42. 1550	Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk (Surnames)
43. 1551	Children of Thomas Kincaid and Elizabeth Kincaid of that Ilk were: James, Luke, Robert, David. Children of Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk and Margaret Seton were: William, Andrew and Mause (PL)
44. 1555	Sir James Kincaid of Kincaid would have been born 1555 or before (OPB)
45. 1560	Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk, Margaret Seton his wife, married 10 Dec 1525, David Kincaid, his son in Brochton, Francis Kincaid son to David Kincaid of the Coates, his daughter Marion. (CalD) <b>Note: Marriage date given is wrong</b>
46. 1525	Thomas Kincaid of Kincaid married Margaret Seton 1525 Thomas died 1561, his widow died 1562 (PL) <b>Note: Ditto</b>
47. 1562	James Kincaid, heir to his father Thomas Kincaid of Kincaid (OPB,M-T)
48.	Wife of James Kincaid of Kincaid was Janet Logan (PL) <b>Note: Janet Logan not identified</b>
49. 1563	James, son and heir of Thomas Kincaid of that Ilk, and Malcolm his brother (Strath) <b>Note: Malcolm was his son</b>
50. 1569	James Kincaid of that Ilk and James his son and heir (SD)
51. 1569	James Kincaid of that Ilk, younger (ET)
52. 1571	James Kincaid of Kincaid, James his son and heir, his brother Robert, Robert's son George (RPC)
53. 1573	James Kincaid de eodem and Christian Leslie, his spouse (PL)
54. 1574	James Kincaid, son and heir to James Kincaid of that Ilk and Christian Leslie his spouse (RGS)
55. 1573	James Kincaid of Kincaid and James Kincaid, younger of that Ilk, James's son George and his brother Robert (PL)
56. 1574	James Kincaid of that Ilk and his son James (RPC)
57. 1577	James Kincaid, younger, of that Ilk (ET)
58. 1579	James Kincaid of that Ilk and Christian Leslie his wife (PL)
59. 1581	Malcolm Kincaid, son of James Kincaid of that Ilk, killed (PCamp)
60. 1581	James Kincaid, younger of that Ilk (Arms)
61. 1581	Slaughter of Malcolm Kincaid, son to James Kincaid of that Ilk; Charles, eldest son to the deceased; James Kincaid of Kincaid, elder, father; James younger of that Ilk; Thomas Kincaid brother; George Kincaid, brother (Stirlings CG)
62. 1582	James Kincaid, younger, of that Ilk and Christian Leslie his spouse (Laing)
63. 1582	James Kincaid, younger, of that Ilk and Christian Leslie his spouse (Laing)
64. 1589	James Kincaid of that Ilk (ET)
65. 1593	James Kincaid of Kincaid (RPC)



66. 1600	Sir James Kincaid of that Ilk and Christian Leslie his spouse; James Kincaid elder of that Ilk; James, son of James Kincaid of that Ilk and Margaret Hamilton, his wife (ES) <b>Note: Only reference to James (=Christian Leslie) being knighted</b>
67. 1601	James Kincaid of that Ilk elder and James Kincaid of that Ilk (ET)
68. 1603	James Kincaid of that Ilk, younger (SS)
69. 1604	James Kincaid of that Ilk died. Arms of his wife unidentified, initials IF (CT) <b>Note: See Note A on main chart</b>
70. 1604	James Kincaid elder of that Ilk and James his son and heir (RPC)
71. 1604	John Kincaid of Craighouse, son of Sir James Kincaid of that Ilk (Cassell) <b>Note: Not son; could be brother</b>
72. 1604	James Kincaid, elder, of that Ilk and James his son and heir; Andrew, son of the said Laird (RPC)
73. 1605	James, younger, of that Ilk, burgess of Glasgow (BGBG)
74. 1606	James Kincaid of that Ilk, heir of James Kincaid of that Ilk (M-T)
74A. 1606	James Kincaid of that Ilk, husband of Christian Leslie, died (CT)
75. 1609	Sir James Kincaid of that Ilk and Margaret Hamilton his wife (ET)
75A. 1606	Deceased James Kincaid of Kincaid, Christian Leslie his spouse, Andrew and John, minor sons (ET)
76. 1610	James Kincaid of Kincaid in debt (RPC)
77. 1613	Sir James Kincaid of Kincaid (RPC)
78. 1618	Christian Leslie, Lady Kincaid, elder; Dame Margaret Hamilton, Lady Kincaid, younger (PL)
79. 1622	Complaint by Dame Margaret Hamilton, Lady Kincaid; Andrew and John, sons of late Christian Leslie, her mother-in-law; and James, their uncle natural (RPC)
80. 1629	Complaint by Dame Margaret Hamilton, widow of Sir James Kincaid of that Ilk and James Kincaid her son (RPC)
81. 1615	Sir James Kincaid, his uncle Capt George, his brother John and Thomas Kincaid, burgess of Edinburgh (RPC)
82. 1620	Andrew Kincaid, tutor of Kincaid; his brother John, William (RPC) <b>Note: William not identified</b>
83. 1563	James Kincaid, Thomas his second son, and Jonet Afleck, spouse of James. Mause Kincaid, spouse of J. Binning (TCofG)

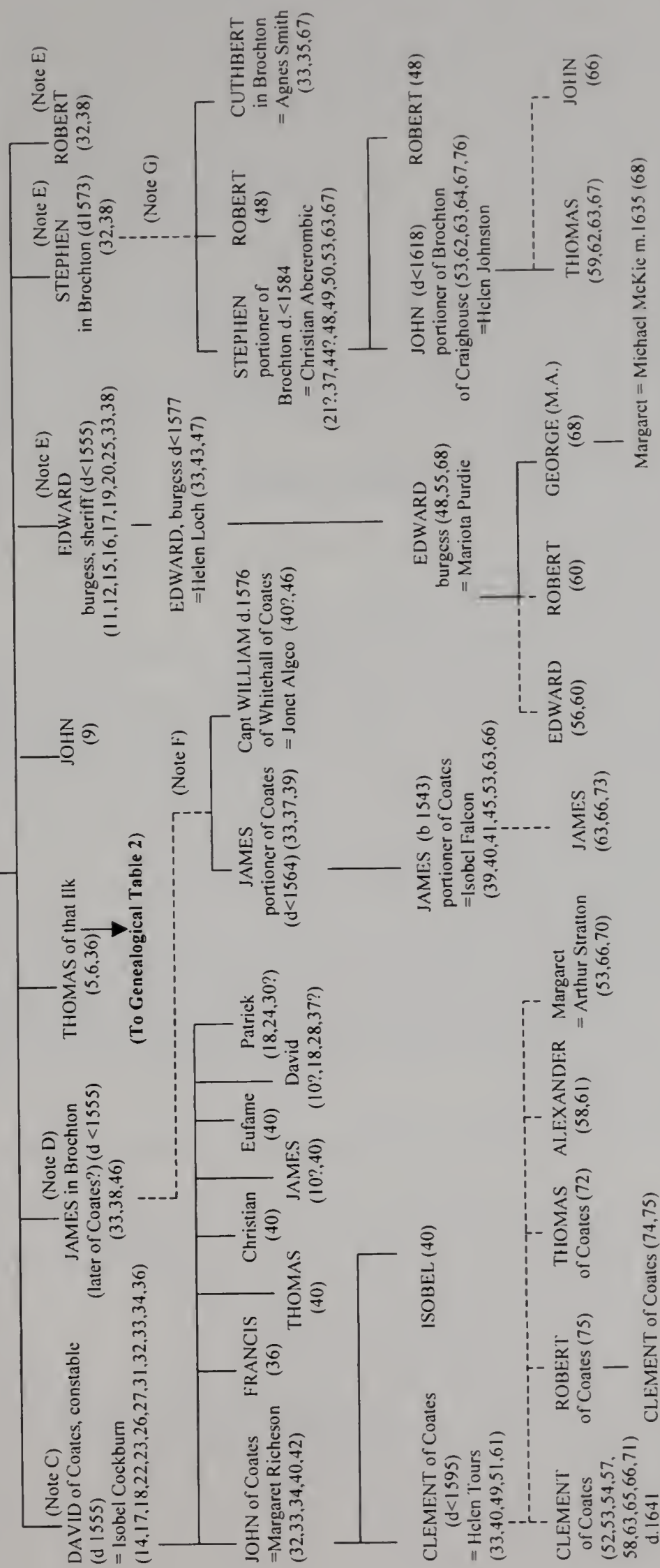
**GENEALOGICAL TABLE 3**  
**KINCAIDS OF COATES**  
**AND BROUGHTON**

DAVID, bailie of Edinburgh (d 1493 – 1511) (1,2,3,4) (Note A)

(Note B)

THOMAS of Coates, constable (d 1513 – 1530) (5.6.7.8.9)

This chart should be treated with great circumspection because many of the relationships are tentative, particularly those shown by the dotted lines



## NOTES:

- NOTES:**
- A. The father of David Kincaid, bailie, is not known but could be Robert Kincaid of Kincaid who had a son David of about the same age. In addition, the legend has it that the post of Constable was awarded to the Kincaids of Kincaid and their heirs. If this is correct, it is likely that the Kincaid of Kincaid would have awarded the post to a younger son as Kincaid was too far from Edinburgh for the Laird of Kincaid to discharge the post satisfactorily. This is of course conjecture with no references to back it up. Furthermore Thomas, the constable, was closely related to the Kincaids of Kincaid because when his son Thomas married Elizabeth Kincaid of Kincaid, he was described as her cousin, admittedly an elastic term.
- B. There is no clear reference to Thomas being the son of David Kincaid.
- C. Thomas Kincaid of Coates had sons Thomas and John, but Coates was inherited by David, who is assumed to be the eldest son of Thomas and elder brother of Thomas and John.
- D. James Kincaid in Brochton is assumed to be another son of Thomas as he had brothers Stephen, Edward and Robert.
- E. Edward Kincaid was brother of David Kincaid of Coates, David Kincaid of Coates had brothers Stephen and Robert.
- F. First mention of second Coates family. This link supposes that James, son and heir of James Kincaid in Brochton, became James, portioner of Coates, Note: Coates was next to, or part of, Brochton.
- G. There is no evidence that Stephen was the father of Stephen, Robert and Cuthbert; however, Stephen's land in Brochton is likely to have passed hereditarily from father to son.

Edward Kincaid was brother of David Kincaid of Coates and brother-in-law of Robert Kincaid of Coates, David Kincaid of Coates had brothers Stephen and Robert. First mention of second Coates family. This link supposes that James, son and heir of James Kincaid in Brochton, became James, portioner of Coates. Note: Coates was next to, or part of, Brochton.



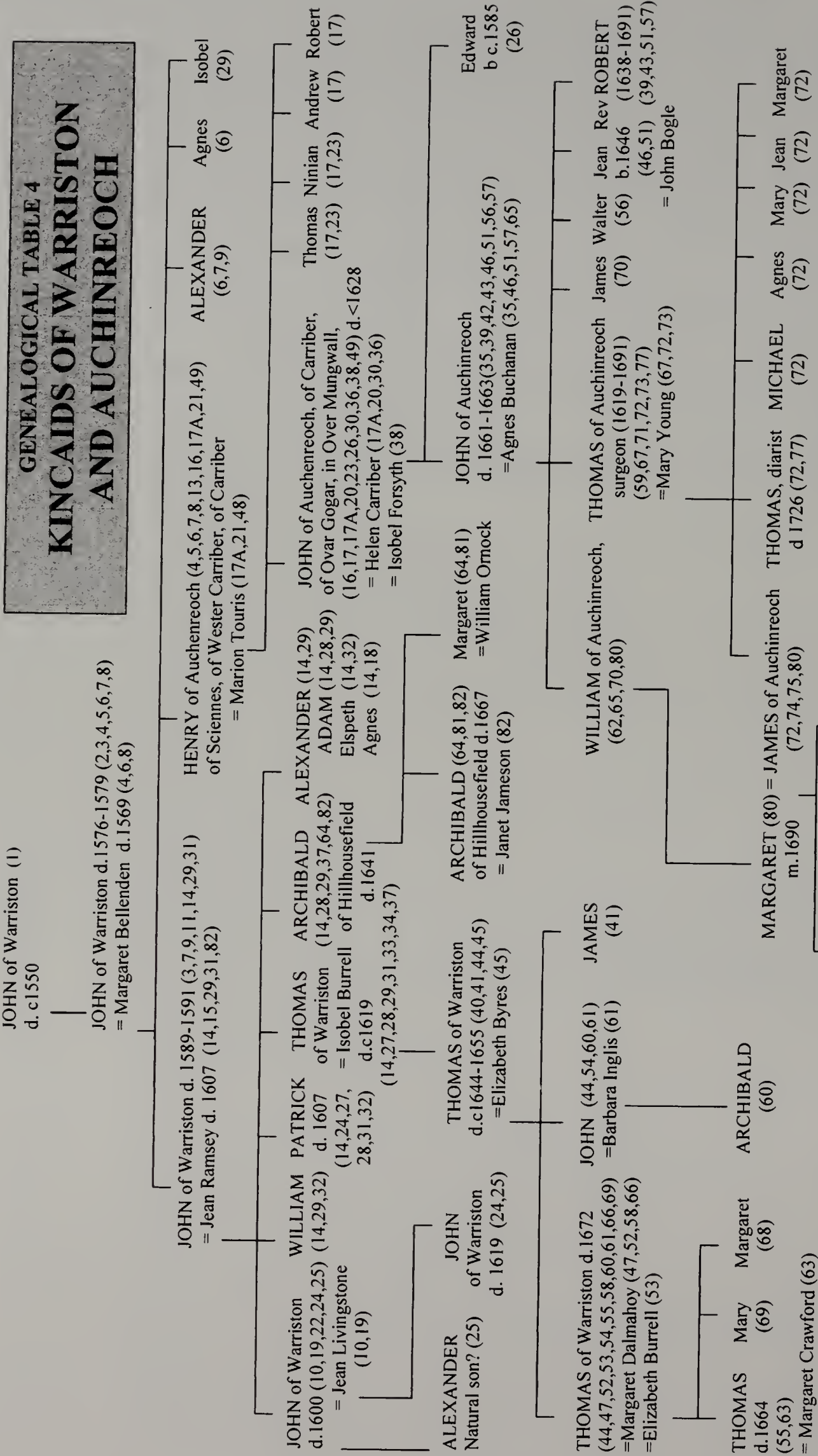
REFERENCES TO GENEALOGICAL TABLE 3: KINCAIDS OF COATES AND BROCHTON

1. 1467	David Kincaid, bailie in Edinburgh (Surnames)
2. 1477, 1478	David Kincaid, constable of Edinburgh Castle (RGS)
3. 1486, 1487	David Kincaid witnesses charters in Edinburgh (RGS)
4. 1493	David Kincaid, bailie of Edinburgh (Surnames, Arms)
5. 1505	Thomas Kincaid, son of Thomas Kincaid, burgess of Edinburgh (RPC)
6. 1505	Thomas Kincaid, son of Thomas Kincaid, burgess of Edinburgh (RPC, RGS)
7. 1511	Thomas Kincaid, constable (Treas)
8. 1511	Thomas Kincaid of the Coates (Fowler)
9. 1513	Master John Kincaid, son of Thomas Kincaid, constable of Edinburgh Castle (Treas)
10. 1520	David and James Kincaid of Coates, special sheriffs of Ayr (Treas) <b>Note: Possibly sons of David Kincaid of Coates</b>
11. 1521	Edward Kincaid, sheriff of Edinburgh (Arms)
12. 1519	Edward Kincaid, burgess of Edinburgh (Yester)
13. 1525	Alexander Kincaid, baillie of Edinburgh (Treas) <b>Note: Not identified on the chart</b>
14. 1530, 1539, 1545	David Kincaid of Coates (RGS)
15. 1530, 1531, 1532	Edward Kincaid, baillie of Edinburgh (RE)
16. 1530	Edward Kincaid, burgess (OEC)
17. 1532	David Kincaid in Coates and Edward Kincaid, burgess of Edinburgh, his brother (TS)
18. 1532	David Kincaid of Coates and his natural sons Patrick and David (Gray)
19. 1534, 1540	Edward Kincaid, burgess of Edinburgh (RGS, RPC)
20. 1535, 1536	Edward Kincaid, man of gude (RE)
21. 1538	Stephen Kincaid (RPC) <b>Note: Could be Stephen Kincaid in Brochton</b>
22. 1538	David Kincaid of Coates (Laing)
23. 1539, 1545	David Kincaid of Coates (RGS)
24. 1541	Legitimation of Patrick, natural son of David Kincaid, constable of Edinburgh Castle (RPC)
25. 1542	Edward Kincaid, ballirus dicti burgi (RGS)
26. 1543	David Kincaid, constable of Edinburgh Castle (Treas)
27. 1546, 1547	Isobel Cockburn, now spouse of David Kincaid of Coates (RPC)
28. 1546	Legitimation of David, natural son of David Kincaid of Coates (RPC)
29. 1546	John Kincaid of Warriston of great age (RPC) <b>Note: Unlikely to be John, son of Thomas of Coates</b>
30. 1547	Patrick Kincaid offers to hand Edinburgh Castle to the English (Scottish)
31. 1555	David Kincaid of Coates and Isobel Cockburn, his spouse, witnessed in house of John Kincaid in Edinburgh by Cuthbert, David and Robert Kincaid (Groote) <b>Note: John, Cuthbert, Robert and the second David not positively identified</b>
32. 1555	David Kincaid, liferenter of west part of lands of Coates, Isobel Cockburn, his spouse, Stephen and Robert, brothers and John Kincaid, his son and heir (Groote)
33. 1555	John, son and heir of late David Kincaid of Coates; James, son and heir of deceased James Kincaid in Brochton; Edward Kincaid, burgess of Edinburgh; Clement Kincaid; Agnes Smith, relict of Cuthbert Kincaid; Edward, son of late Edward Kincaid, burgess of Edinburgh (Groote)
34. 1555	Elizabeth Cockburn, lady of Hill, relict of late David Kincaid of Coates, father of John Kincaid of Coates (Groote) <b>Note: Unless David married two Cockburns, Elizabeth is the same person as Isobel.</b>
35. 1554, 1555	Cuthbert Kincaid in Brochton (Groote)
36. 1560	Thomas Kincaid of that ilk, David, his son in Brochton, Francis, son of David Kincaid of Coates (CalD)
37. 1561	David Kincaid and James Kincaid – lands of Coates; Stephen Kincaid – lands of Brochton (Holyrood)
38. 1561	Late James Kincaid in Brochton and his brothers Stephen, Robert and Edward (CalD)
39. 1564	James Kincaid, son and heir of deceased James Kincaid of Coates, reaches majority (Acts and Decrees)
40. 1567	Dame Christian, sister of John Kincaid portioner of Coates (= Margaret Richeson); his daughter Isobel and son Clement (= Helen Tours); his sister Eufame; William Kincaid, burgess of Edinburgh; James Kincaid, portioner of Coates; Thomas and James, brothers of John Kincaid (OPB) <b>Note: Christian was probably not Dame Christian, prioress</b>
41. 1569	James Kincaid of Coates (SD)
42. 1572	John Kincaid, portioner of Coates (ET)
43. 1573	Edward Kincaid, maltman, burgess of Edinburgh (RPC)
44. 1573	Stephen Kincaid, lands of Craiglockart (Charter facsimile) <b>Note: Probably Stephen, son of Stephen Kincaid in Brochton</b>
45. 1574	James Kincaid of Coates and his wife Isobel Falcon (RGS)
46. 1576	William, son of James Kincaid of Coates, alias Capt William of the Whitehall of Coates d. 1576 (ET)
47. 1577	Helen Loch, sometime spouse of Edward Kincaid, maltman, burgess of Edinburgh (ET)
48. 1582	Stephen Kincaid, portioner of Brochton in liferent; Robert Kincaid his second son; witness Edward Kincaid, burgess of Edinburgh; Robert, brother of Stephen (Laing)
49. 1584	Clement Kincaid of Coates, Stephen Kincaid, feuar of part of Brochton (RPC)
50. 1584	Christian Abercrombie, sometime spouse of Stephen Kincaid in Brochton (ET)
51. 1595	Helen Touris, sometime spouse of Clement Kincaid of Coates (ET)
52. 1598	Clement Kincaid, portioner of Coates (RPC, RGS)
53. 1600	Clement and John Kincaid of Coates; Edward, burgess of Edinburgh (=Agnes Oistean); James Kincaid portioner of Coates; John, son of Stephen Kincaid, portioner of Brochton; Margaret, daughter of Clement Kincaid of Coates (= Arthur Stratoun, writer) (ES) <b>Note: Not all these can be identified with certainty</b>
54. 1603	Clement Kincaid in Coates (RPC)
55. 1603	Edward Kincaid, brewer, burgess of Edinburgh and Mariota Purdie, his spouse ((SS)
56. 1604	Edward Kincaid, younger, burgess of Edinburgh (RPC)
57. 1605	Clement Kincaid of Coates (RPC)
58. 1608	Alexander, son of Clement Kincaid of Coates (RPC)

59. 1610	Thomas Kincaid, portioner of Brochton (RPC)
60. 1613	Edward Kincaid, burgess of Edinburgh and his brother Robert (RPC)
61. 1617	Alexander, son of deceased Clement Kincaid, indweller in Edinburgh (ET)
62. 1618	Thomas, son and heir of deceased John Kincaid, portioner of Brochton (ET)
63. 1624-1630	Clement Kincaid of Coates (1630); James Kincaid of Coates (1628); James Kincaid, portioner of Coates (1630); John Kincaid, portioner of Brochton (1630); Stephen, father of John Kincaid, portioner of Brochton and John's son Thomas (1626 & 1629) (ES)
64. 1624	Helen Johnston, relict of John Kincaid, portioner of Brochton (ET)
65. 1626	Lands of Coates formerly belonging to Clement Kincaid of Coates (Laing)
66. 1631-1636	Clement Kincaid of Coates (1632); James Kincaid of Coates (1632); James Kincaid, portioner of Coates (1632); John Kincaid, portioner of Brochton (1632); Margaret = Arthur Stratoun, writer (1632) (ES) <b>Note: Not all these can be identified with certainty</b>
67. 1633	Agnes Smith, relict of Cuthbert Kincaid, brother to late Stephen Kincaid, subtenant of Brochton; the late John Kincaid, portioner of Brochton and Thomas Kincaid his son and heir (RGS)
68. 1635	George Kincaid M.A., son of Edward Kincaid, burgess of Edinburgh, married and had issue Margaret Kincaid who married Michael Mekie 25 June 1635 (Fasti)
69. 1635	George Kincaid, merchant burgess of Edinburgh (RPC) <b>Note: Not likely to be the same George as at Reference 68</b>
70. 1639	Margaret Kincaid = Arthur Stratoun, writer to the signet (ES)
71. 1641	The late Clement Kincaid, portioner of Coates, the late James Kincaid, portioner of Coates (Laing)
72. 1647	Thomas Kincaid of Coates (RGS)
73. 1650	James Kincaid, laird of the feu ferm of the other half of Coates (Laing)
74. 1655	Clement Kincaid of Coates (ES)
75. 1682	Clement Kincaid, son of deceased Robert Kincaid, sometime of Coates (ET)
76. 1601	John Kincaid of Craighouse, portioner of Brochton (RPC)



GENEALOGICAL TABLE 4  
KINCAIDS OF WARRISTON  
AND AUCHINREOCH



Notes:

1. Thomas Kincaid of Warriston (=Elizabeth Byres) could be son of Patrick Kincaid, but unlikely (see note at Ref 33).

2. There is doubt over how many Thomas Ks of Warriston there were, and who they married.

Notes (continued):

3. There is no evidence that Thomas Kincaid, surgeon, was son of John Kincaid of Auchinreoch. However, he inherited Auchinreoch after the death of William, son of John of Auchinreoch, so it is most likely that he was William's brother and the second son of John Kincaid of Auchinreoch and Agnes Buchanan

REFERENCES TO GENEALOGICAL TABLE 4: KINCAIDS OF WARRISTON AND AUCHINREOCH

1. 1546

John Kincaid of Warriston of great age (RPC)

2. 1550

John Kincaid of Warriston kills French sailor (RPC)

3. 1557

John Kincaid, son and heir of John Kincaid of Warriston (Laing)

4. 1567

Henry Kincaid, second son of John Kincaid of Warriston and Margaret Bellenden his wife (OPB)

5. 1567

Henry, second son of John Kincaid of Warriston (RGS)

6. 1567

Margaret Bellenden, spouse of John Kincaid of Warriston, Henry, Alexander and Agnes their children (ET)

7. 1571

Henry, 2<sup>nd</sup> son of John of Warriston, Henry's brothers Alexander and John, heir of John of Warriston (RGS)

8. 1576

Henry Kincaid in Sciennes, second son of John Kincaid of Warriston and Margaret Bellenden (OPB)

9. 1579

John Kincaid of Warriston and his brother Alexander (RPC)

10. 1579

Jean Livingstone born, and married about the age of 15 to John Kincaid of Warriston (Larbert)

11. 1584, 1587

John Kincaid of Warriston (RPC)

12. 1588

Robert Kincaid in Warriston (Laing) **Note: Unable to place him on the chart**

13. 1589

Henry Kincaid of Auchinreoch (RPC)

14. 1589

Testament of John Kincaid of Warriston, Janet his wife, and their children William, Patrick, Thomas, Alexander, Archibald, Adam, Agnes and Elspeth (ET)

15. 1591

Jean Ramsey, Lady Warriston, abducted (Cassell)

16. 1591

John Kincaid, son of Henry Kincaid of Auchinreoch (RPC)

17. 1593

John Kincaid of Auchinreoch, his brothers Ninian and Andrew, Thomas and Robert (RPC)

17A. 1593

Henry Kincaid of Auchinreoch and Marion Touris, his spouse; John Kincaid, their eldest son, and Helen Cariber, his wife (OEC)

18. 1598

Agnes Kincaid, lawful daughter of deceased John Kincaid of Warriston (ET)

19. 1600

Murder of John Kincaid of Warriston by Jean Livingstone his wife (Nimmo etc)

20. 1600

John Kincaid in Over Mungall and Helen Cariber his wife (ES)

21. 1600

Henry Kincaid of Cariber, of Sciennes, of Wester Cariber and Marion Touris his wife (ES)

22. 1601

John Kincaid of Warriston (ET)

23. 1601

Thomas and Ninian, brothers to John Kincaid of Auchinreoch (ET)

24. 1601

Will of John Kincaid of Warriston; Patrick Kincaid his brother; his son John (ET)

25. 1602

Archibald Kincaid, son of late John Kincaid of Warriston. apprenticed. Obviously son of John Kincaid (killed by Jean Livingstone), but did not inherit although older than John, younger (OPB). **Note: Could have been illegitimate.**

26. 1603

Edward, son of John Kincaid of Auchinreoch, apprenticed(ES)

27. 1605

Patrick Kincaid, tutor of Warriston, and Thomas Kincaid his brother (RPC)

28. 1607

Patrick Kincaid, tutor of Warriston, and Thomas, Archibald and Mr Adam his brothers (RPC)

29. 1608

Jean Ramsey, relict of John Kincaid of Warriston; Archibald her son; Thomas, tutor of Warriston; William and Archibald his sons; Alexander and Adam, his sons; Isobel, his sister (ET)

30. 1609

John Kincaid of Cariber and Helen Cariber his wife (RPC)

31. 1610

Jean Ramsey, widow of John Kincaid of Warriston, Patrick, son of said Jean, and Thomas his brother (RGS)

32. 1610

Matrimonial contract between William Cockburn of Cockburn and Elizabeth Kincaid, daughter of John Kincaid of Warriston and Jean Ramsey; William and Patrick, brothers of John Kincaid of Warriston (RGS)

33. 1619

Thomas Kincaid of Warriston returned heir to his father Patrick Kincaid of Warriston (Cassell) **Note: This could be a mistaken entry. Thomas could have been son of Patrick , but was more likely his brother.**

34. 1621

Isobell Burrell, sometime spouse of Thomas Kincaid of Warriston (ET)

35. 1623

Agnes married John Kincaid of Auchinreoch (Stirls)

36. 1626

Helen Cariber, sometime spouse of John Kincaid of Over Gogar (ET)

37. 1628

Thomas of Warriston, Archibald his brother (RPC)

38. 1628

Isobel Forsyth, relict of John Kincaid of Auchinreoch (CommG)

39. 1629

Robert, son of John Kincaid of Over Gogar (ES)

40. 1629

Thomas Kincaid of Warriston tried for manslaughter (RPC)

41. 1629

James, son of Thomas Kincaid of Warriston (RPC)

42. 1631

John Kincaid of Over Gogar Maynes (RS)

43. 1631

Robert son of John Kincaid of Over Gogar Maynes (ES)

44. 1638

Thomas Kincaid of Warriston, Thomas and John his sons (RPC)

45. 1643

Elizabeth Byres, wife of Thomas Kincaid of Warriston (ES)

46. 1646

Jean, daughter of John Kincaid of Auchinreoch and Agnes Buchanan, baptised (BaptC)

47. 1644

Margaret Dalmahoy, wife of Thomas Kincaid, younger, of Warriston (ES)

48. 1645

Marion Touris, wife of Henry Kincaid (ES)

49. 1645

John Kincaid, son of Henry (ES)

50. 1646

Margaret, daughter of John Kincaid of Warriston (RGS). **Note: Not identified on chart.**

51. c1650

Rev. John Bogle's wife, Jean Kincaid, was sister of Rev Robert Kincaid, Minister of Barnwell, and was probably a younger daughter of John Kincaid of Auchinreoch and Agnes Buchanan, his wife (Sk)

52. 1655

Margaret Dalmahoy, wife of Thomas Kincaid of Warriston (ES)

53. 1657

Elizabeth Burrell, wife of Thomas Kincaid of Warriston (ES)

54. 1655, 1658

John, brother of Thomas Kincaid of Warriston (ES)

55. 1655

Thomas, younger, of Warriston, son of Thomas Kincaid of Warriston (ES)

56. 1657

Walter, son to John Kincaid of Auchinreoch, apprenticed (REA)

57. 1658

Rev Robert Kincaid, probably son of John Kincaid of Auchinreoch and Agnes Buchanan (Fasti)

58. 1661

Margaret Dalmahoy, wife of Thomas Kincaid of Warriston (RegD)

59. 1662

Thomas Kincaid, surgeon of Edinburgh (RegD)

60. 1663

Archibald, son of John Kincaid, brother of Thomas Kincaid of Warriston (RegD)

61. 1663

Barbara Inglis, wife of John Kincaid, brother of Thomas Kincaid of Warriston (RegD)

62. 1663

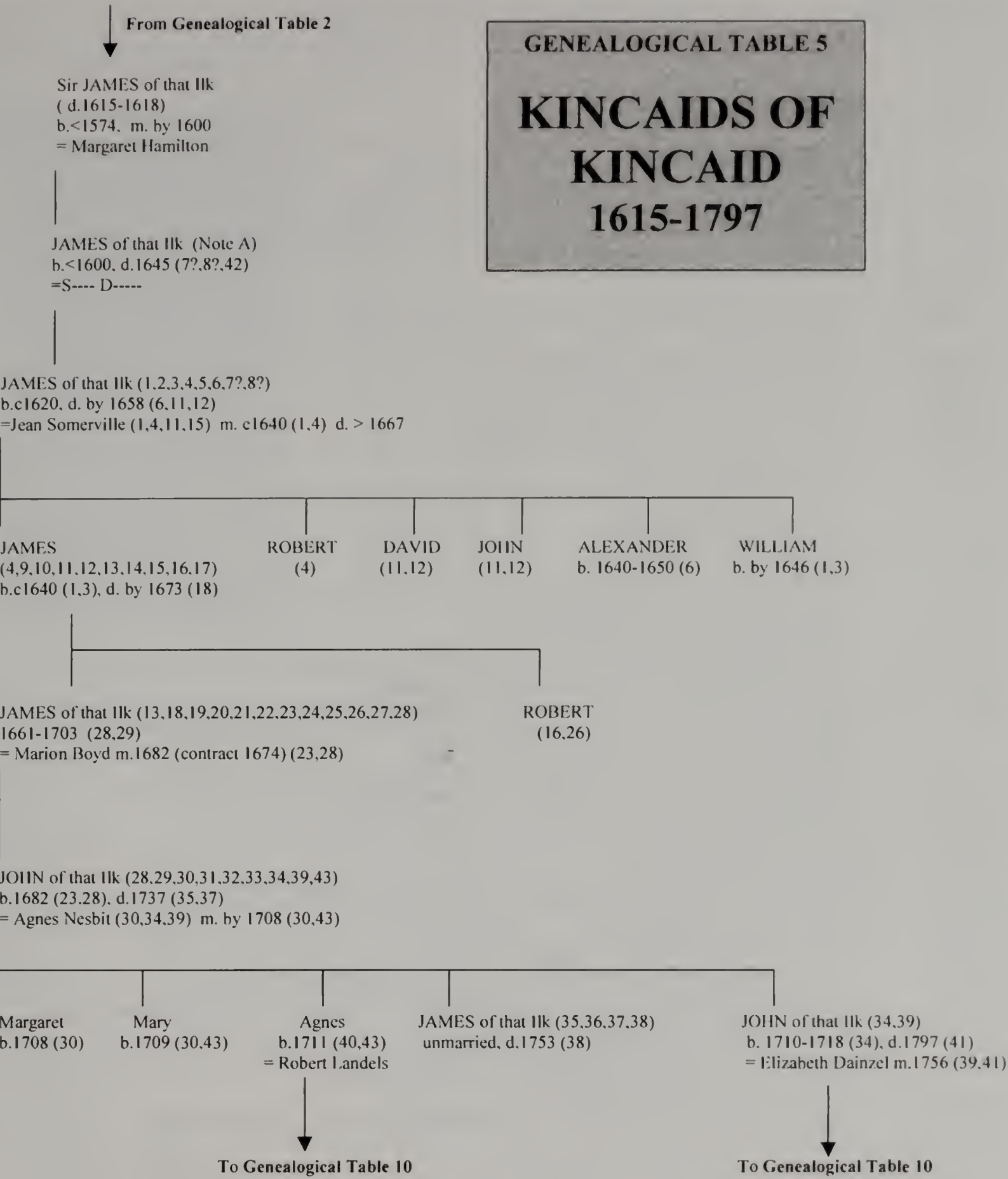
William Kincaid of Auchinreoch (RegD)

63. 1664

Margaret Crawford, relict of Thomas Kincaid of Warriston (RegD)



64. 1665	Margaret, daughter of Archibald Kincaid, elder, married to William Ornock (RegD)
65. 1668	Agnes Buchanan, mother of William of Auchinreoch (RegD)
66. 1672	Kincaid of Warriston, his wife Margaret Dalmahoy (Greyfriars)
67. 1674	Mary Young, spouse of Thomas Kincaid, surgeon (GR)
68. 1675	Margaret, daughter of Thomas Kincaid of Warriston (ES)
69. 1678	Mary, daughter of Thomas Kincaid of Warriston (ES)
70. 1681	James Kincaid, brother german to William Kincaid of Auchinreoch (RegD)
71. 1683	Thomas Kincaid of Auchinreoch (RPC)
72. 1687-1688	Thomas Kincaid’s diary (Diary)
73. 1691	Death of Thomas Kincaid, surgeon; his wife Mary Young; their seven children (Brown)
74. 1717	Margaret, eldest daughter of James Kincaid of Auchinreoch, wife of William Buchanan of Carbeth (PRS)
75. 1717	James Kincaid of Auchinreoch (PRS)
76. 1723	Elizabeth Murray, lady to Thomas Kincaid, younger, of Gogar Mains, found dead (DAS) <b>Note: Not identified on chart.</b>
77. 1726	Death of Thomas Kincaid, son of Thomas Kincaid, surgeon (OEC)
78. 1761	Margaret Kincaid, relict of deceased William Buchanan of Carbeth and sister german and heir of deceased James Kincaid of Auchinreoch (PRS)
79. 1768	James Kincaid of Auchinreoch and his sister Margaret (PRS)
80. 1690	James Kincaid of Auchinreoch married Margaret Kincaid, daughter of deceased William Kincaid of Auchinreoch (EMR)
81. 1667	Death of Alexander Kincaid of Hillhousefield; estate inherited by son of Margaret Kincaid and William Ornock (OEC)
82. 1641	On death of Jean Ramsey, Hillhousefield inherited by her son Archibald; his son Archibald and his wife Janet Jameson inherited in due course (OEC)





REFERENCES TO GENEALOGICAL TABLE 5: KINCAIDS OF KINCAID 1615-1797

1. 1646 William, son of John Kincaid of that Ilk and Jean Somerville (CPR) **Note: This seems to be an error as it was James who was married to Jean Somerville**

2. 1646 James Kincaid of that Ilk (CPR)

3. 1646 William, son of James Kincaid of that Ilk (OPB)

4. 1647 This proves beyond any doubt that the James and Robert combination of names in the 1660s and 1670s were the sons of James Kincaid of that Ilk and Jean Somerville (OPB)

5. 1651 John Kincaid of that Ilk (CPR) **Note: Again this seems in error; it should read James**

6. 1658 Alexander, son to late James Kincaid of that Ilk, apprenticed (REA)

7. 1601 James Kincaid of that Ilk, Margaret his wife, James his son, James Kincaid of Kincaid elder (ET)

8. 1629 Dame Margaret Hamilton, widow of Sir James Kincaid of Kincaid, James her son (ET)

9. 1660 James Kincaid of Kincaid (CPR)

10. 1662 James Kincaid of Kincaid (RegD)

11. 1664 Jean Somerville, Lady Kincaid, and James Kincaid her eldest lawful son; John and David, brothers of the said James (RegD)

12. 1665 James, eldest son of deceased James Kincaid of that Ilk; David and John, brothers to said James (RegD)

13. 1665 James Kincaid of that Ilk; James his son (RegD)

14. 1667 James Kincaid of that Ilk (RegD)

15. 1667 James, son of Jean Somerville, Lady Kincaid (RegD)

16. 1668 James Kincaid of that Ilk, Robert his son (RegD)

17. 1671 James Kincaid of that Ilk (RegD)

18. 1673 James Kincaid of that Ilk, eldest son of deceased James Kincaid of that Ilk (RegD)

19. 1675 James Kincaid of that Ilk (RegD)

20. 1678 James Kincaid of that Ilk (RPC)

21. 1679 James Kincaid of that Ilk (RPC)

22. 1681 James Kincaid of that Ilk (RegD)

23. 1682 Marriage of James Kincaid of that Ilk and Marion Boyd (contract made 1674) (RegD)

24. 1684 James Kincaid of that Ilk refused the Test (GlasCo)

25. 1686,1687 James Kincaid of that Ilk (RegD)

26. 1688 James Kincaid, eldest lawful son of deceased James Kincaid of Kincaid, Robert his brother (SDeeds)

27. 1696 James Kincaid of Kincaid and the stool of repentance (PCamp)

28. 1703 James (=Marion Boyd) may have been the father of John (=Agnes Nisbet). John was of lawful age in 1703 and James’s marriage contract places his birth between 1675 and 1682 (OPB) **Note: James married Marion Boyd in 1682 so John’s birthdate must have been 1682.**

29. 1703 John Kincaid of that Ilk, lawful son and heir of deceased James Kincaid of Kincaid (PRS)

30. 1707 or 1708 John Kincaid of Kincaid and Agnes Nesbit his spouse; baptism of their daughter Margaret (CPR)

31. 1708 John Kincaid of that Ilk ((PRS)

32. 1718 John Kincaid of that Ilk surrenders lands of Meikle, Little Kincaid and Kinkell (PRS)

33. 1719 John Kincaid of that Ilk (KilR)

34. 1728 John, second son of John Kincaid of Kincaid and Agnes Nesbit, apprenticed (REA)

35. 1737 Deceased John Kincaid of Kincaid, James Kincaid of Kincaid, lawful son and nearest in kin (HCT)

36. 1745 James Kincaid of Kincaid (StatSS)

37. 1751 James Kincaid of Kincaid and his father John Kincaid of Kincaid who died Nov 1737 (SHeirs)

38. 1753 James Kincaid of Kincaid, deceased (HCT)

39. 1756 John Kincaid, second son of John (=Agnes Nesbit) married Elizabeth Dainzell (OPB)

40. 1783 Janet Landels, wife of John Kincaid, younger, of Kincaid (SHeirs) **Note: Janet Landels was daughter of Agnes Kincaid and Robert Landels - see Table 10**

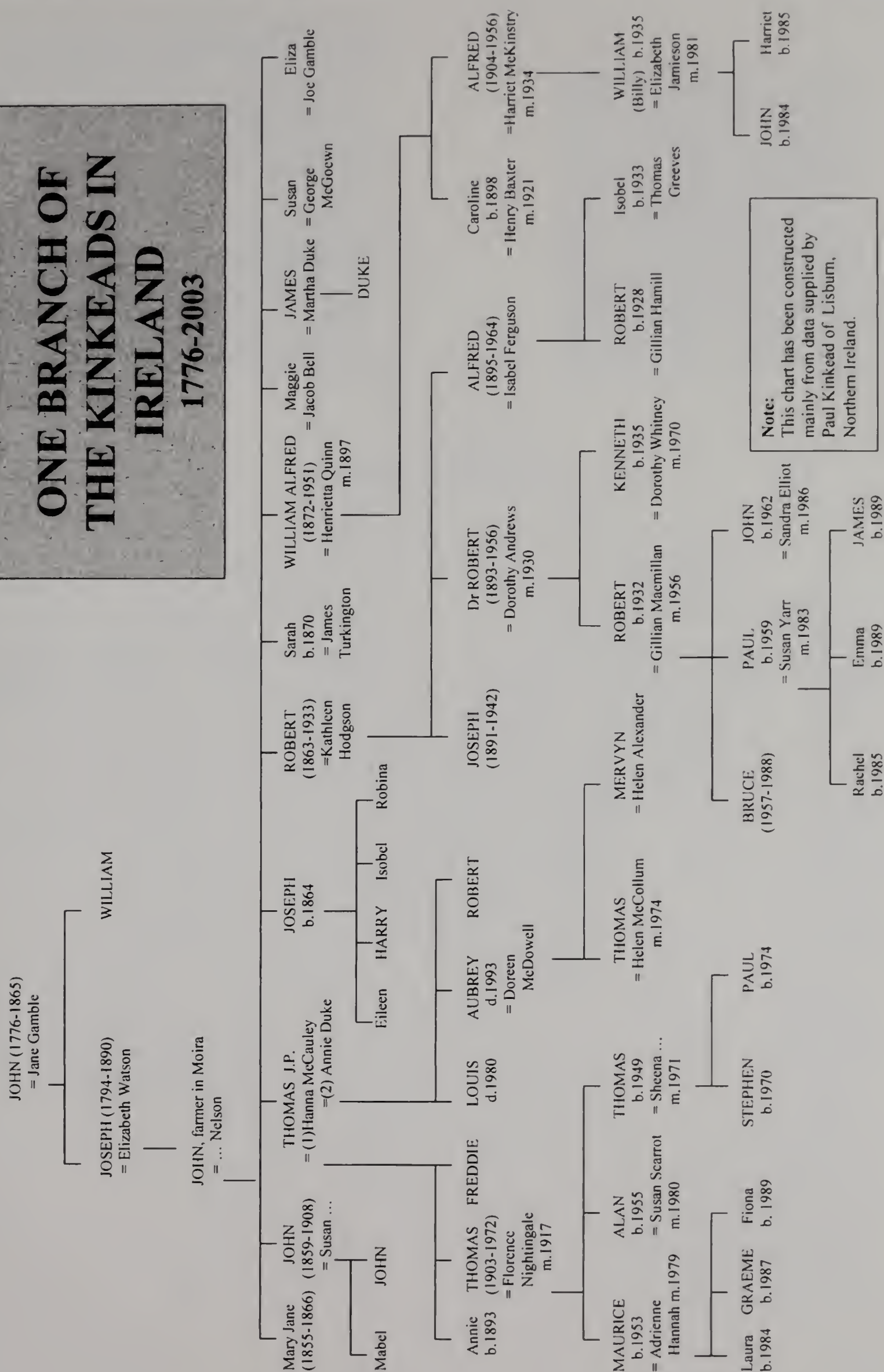
41. 1797 John Kincaid of Kincaid (=Elizabeth Dainzell) died between 20 Jan and 13 March 1797. Elizabeth was alive in 1798 as was her second son George (OPB) **Note: See also Table 10**

42. 1645 Tombstone JK – SD Desisit 1645 (CT)

43. 1709, 1711 Baptisms of Mary and Agnes, daughters of John Kincaid of Kincaid and Agnes Nesbit (OPB)

## GÉNÉALOGICAL TABLE 6

ONE BRANCH OF  
THE KINKEADS IN  
IRELAND  
1776-2003

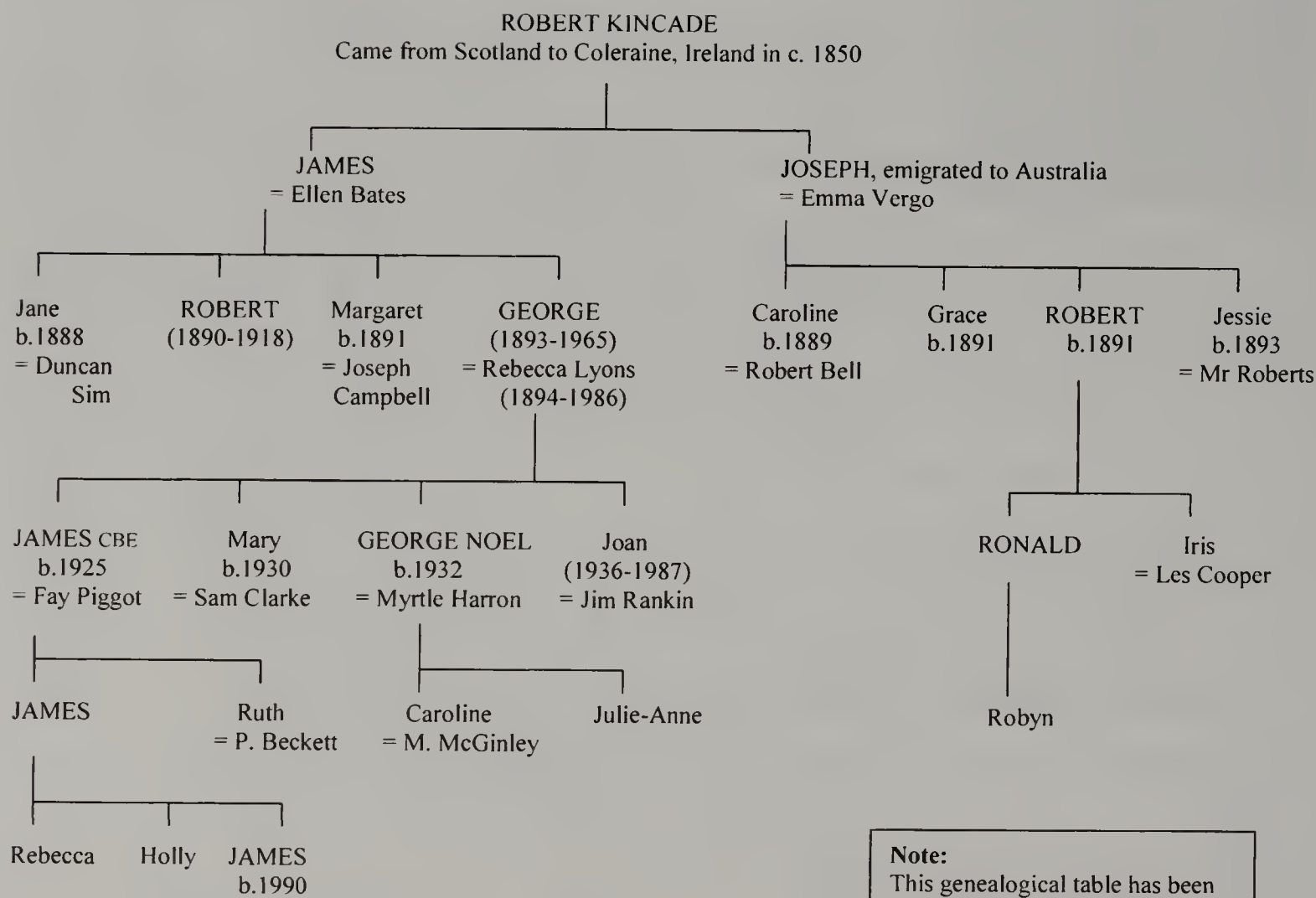


**Note:**  
This chart has been constructed  
mainly from data supplied by  
Paul Kinhead of Lisburn,  
Northern Ireland.

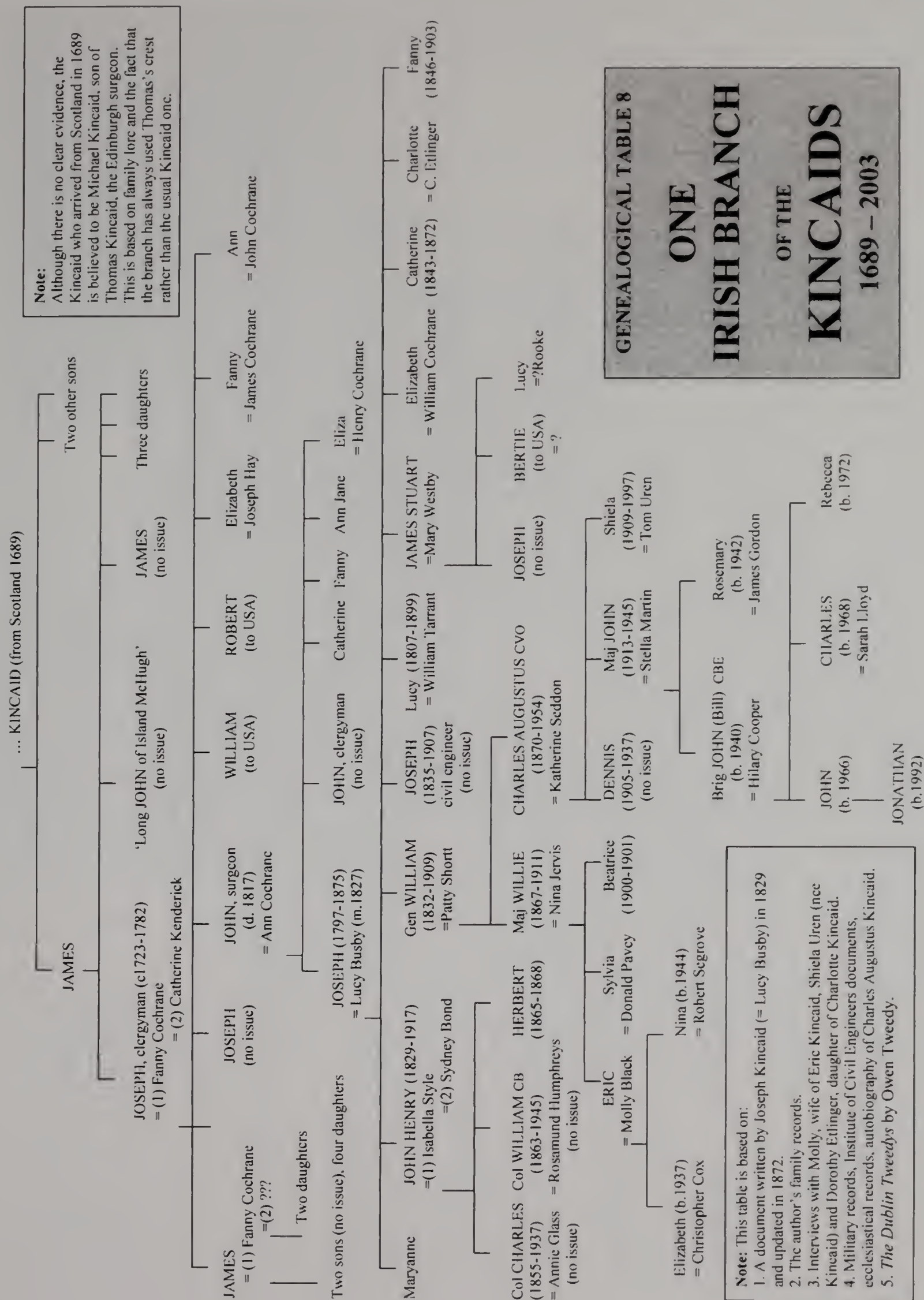


GENEALOGICAL TABLE 7

A BRANCH OF  
THE KINCADES  
IN  
IRELAND AND  
AUSTRALIA  
c.1850 – 2003



**Note:**  
This genealogical table has been  
constructed by George Noel  
Kincade of Belfast, Northern  
Ireland.





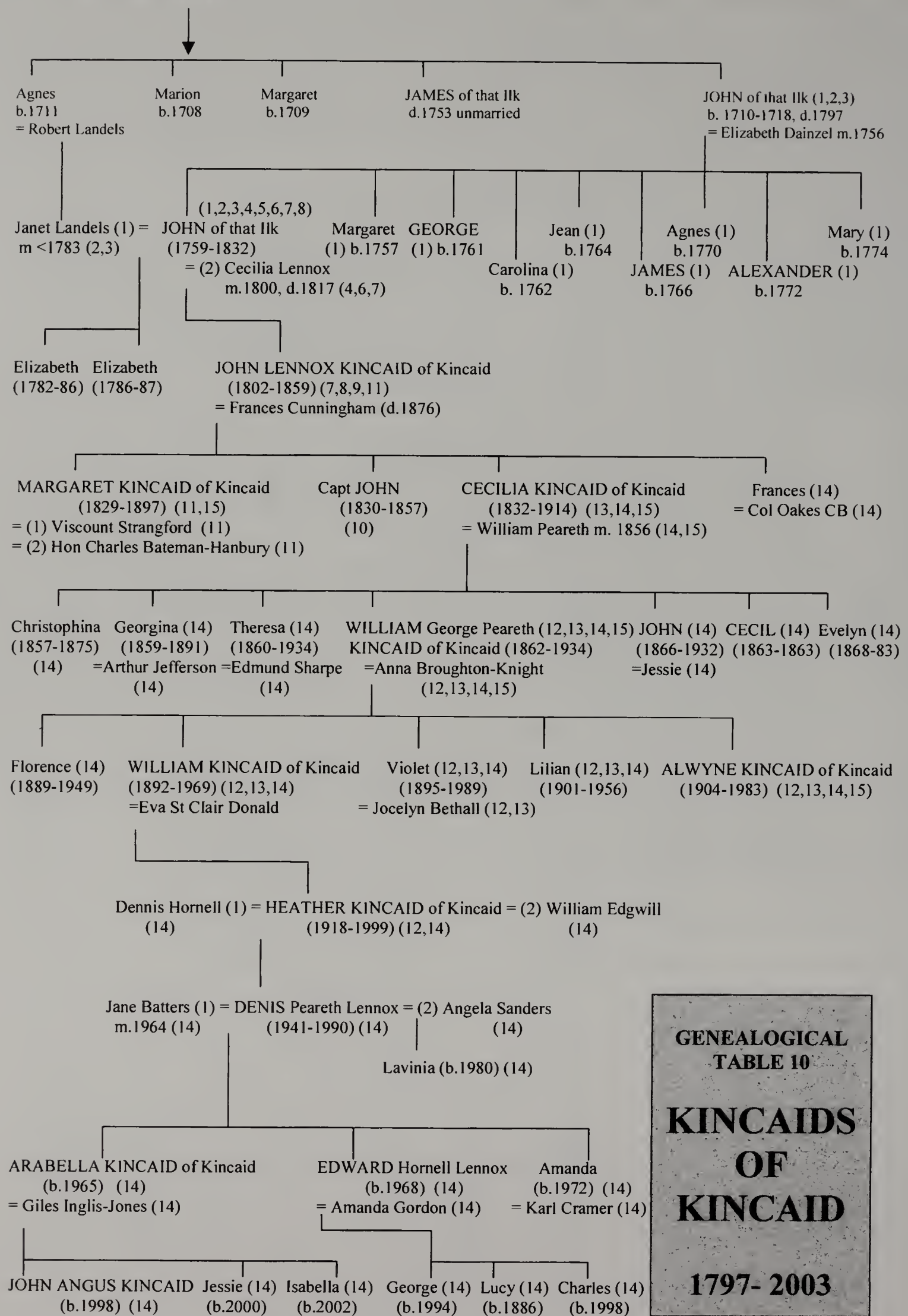


REFERENCES TO GENEALOGICAL TABLE 9: KINCAIDS IN FALKIRK c.1650-2000

1. 1663-1723	Table of Kincaids of Huek and Saltcoats and Dalgreen, using many of the following references (OPB)
2. 1662, 63,66	John Kineaid of Huck, John Kineaid of Saltcoats (RegD)
3. 1664, 67,71	John Kineaid of Huck (RegD)
4. 1665	John Kineaid of Salteoats, John Kineaid of Huek (RegD)
5. 1671	John Kineaid of Huck (CommG)
6. 1673	Archibald of Salteoats (IS)
7. 1683	Alexander Kineaid, son to deceased John Kineaid of Huck apprenticed to Zacharius Mohenus, goldsmith (RIA)
8. 1685	Isobel and John, children of James Kineaid in Dalgreen (IRB)
9. 1693	Alexander Kineaid, goldsmith (RE)
10. 1698	John Kineaid of Salteoats, burgess and guild brother (BGBG)
11. 1699	Archibald, son of John Kineaid of Salteoats, apprenticed to Alexander Kineaid, goldsmith (ERA)
12. 1705	John Kineaid of Wester Salteoats, Archibald Kincaid of Huek (PRS)
13. 1708	Archibald Kineaid of Huek (PRS)
14. 1708	Jean, lawful daughter to deceased James Kincaid, elder, tenant in Dalgreen. Grant by Archibald Kincaid of Huek to said James and his ehildren William, James, Alexander, John, Thomas, Robert, Isobel, Jean, Catherine; James Kineaid in Dalgreen present. (PRS)
15. 1709	James Kincaid in Dalgreen and Helen Scott his wife, and James Kineaid his eldest son (PRS)
16. 1710	Jean, youngest daughter of James Kincaid in Dalgreen, now spouse of John Smith; John Kineaid of Salteoats (PRS)
17. 1710	Archibald Kineaid of Huek (PRS)
18. 1711	John Kincaid of Saltcoats, brother german and lawful heir to deceased Archibald Kineaid of Huek (PRS)
19. 1718	Jean Kineaid, spouse of John Smith, John Kincaid of Saltcoats, James Kineaid in Dalgreen (PRS)
20. 1719	James Kincaid in Dalgreen, Helen Scott his wife and John his second son (PRS)
21. 1721	James Kineaid in Dalgreen and Helen Scott his wife and James and John his sons
22. 1722	John Kincaid in Dalgreen, Helen Scott his wife and William, Margaret and Catherine his children (PRS)
23. 1723	John Wyse and Katherine Kineaid his spouse (PRS)
24. 1746	James Kincaid of Dalgreen was very active in helping the rebels (1745)
25. 1751	Marriage of Alexander Kineaid, bookseller, to Miss Caroline Kerr (EMR)
26. 1753	Archibald Kineaid of Huek who possessed the lands of Huek and Oswalds Saltcoats (PRS)
27. 1757	Alexander Kincaid, bookseller in Edinburgh (OEC)
28. 1776	Alexander Kincaid elected Provost of Edinburgh (Arms etc)
29. 1777	Alexander Kincaid , eldest son of deceased Alexander, HM Printer (Arms etc)
30. 1784	Alexander Kincaid's activities as printer (OEC)
31. 1789	Genealogical table of Alexander Kincaid's relatives (OPB, based on RegD)
32. 1774-1866	Two monuments in Falkirk churchyard show family of Thomas Kineaid and Elizabeth Chislie (FalkirkCh)
33. 1849-1900	Monument in Polmont Churehyard shows family of Alexander Kineaid and his wife Elizabeth Smith (PolCh)
34. 1884	Death of Thomas Kineaid (GreenockTel)
35. 1924	Death of John G. Kineaid (GreenockTel)
36. 1924	Death of Charles S. Kincaid (GreenockTel)
37. 1940	Death of James S. Kineaid (GreenockTel)
38.	Various births in Stirlingshire Parish Records
39.	Monuments in Polmont Churehyard
40.	Document tracing David Kineaid's ancestry and letter from Eric Kineaid
41.	Kincaid & Co Centenary Booklet
42.	Brig Kenneth Kincaid-Smith, son of Maj John Kineaid-Smith (Who Was Who)
43.	Lt Col Maleolm Kineaid-Smith, son of Maj John Kincaid-Smith (Who Was Who)
44. 1854	Letter from Sir John Kineaid to Duke of Richmond recommending his kinsman, Maj John Kineaid-Smith (MC)
45.	Noteboks of Robert Floyd
46. 1722	John Kincaid in Grange, Alexander his son (ST)
47. 1722	Deceased John Kineaid in Grange, Jean Livingstone his spouse, and his son John, tenant in Grange (ST)
48.	Stirlingshire Parish Records



From Genealogical Table 5



GENEALOGICAL  
TABLE 10

KINCAIDS  
OF  
KINCAID

1797- 2003

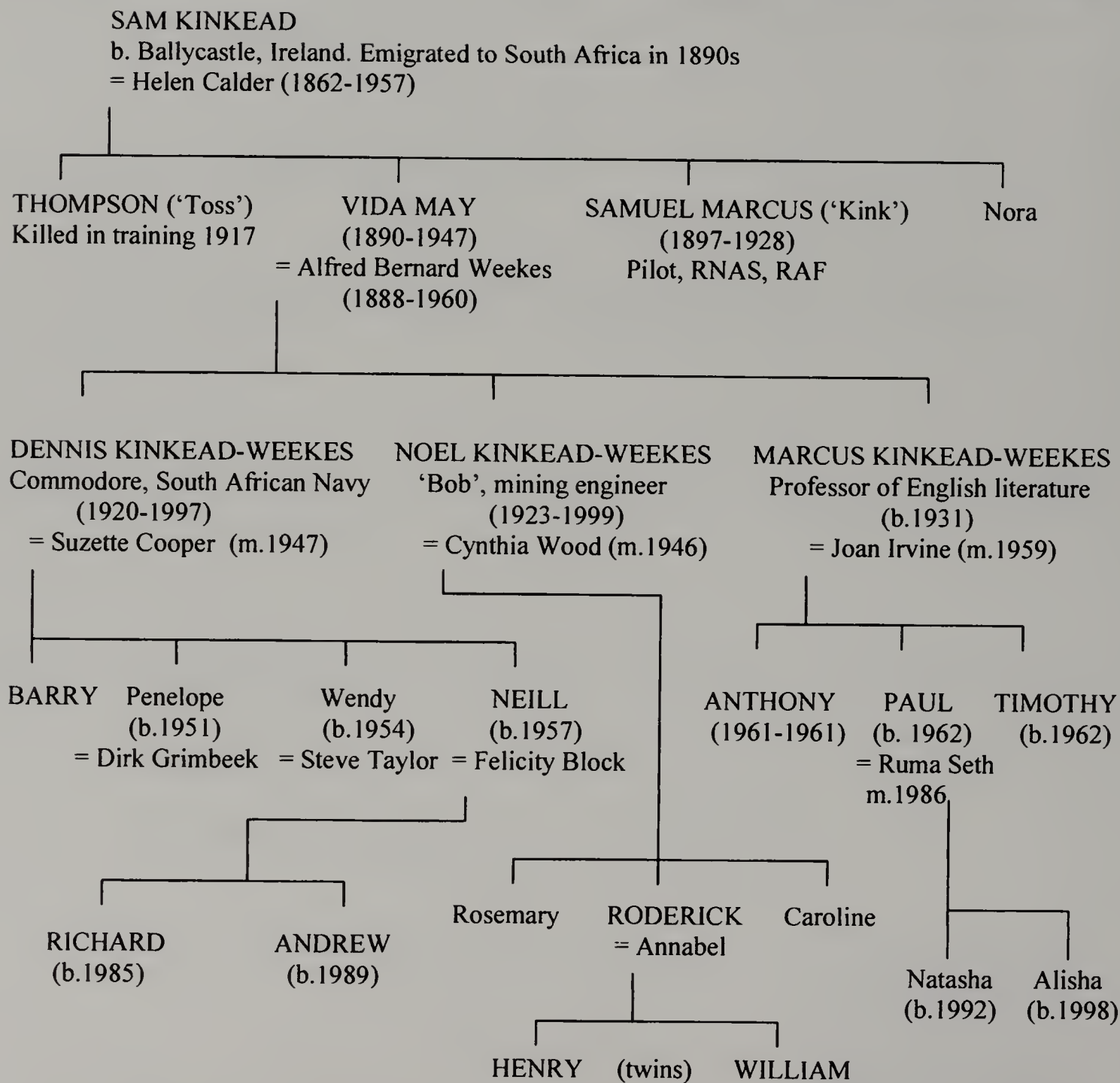
REFERENCES TO GENEALOGICAL TABLE 10: KINCAIDS OF KINCAID 1797-2003

1. 1799	Children of John Kincaid of Kincaid and Elizabeth Dainzell recorded in family bible as: Margaret (b.1757), John (b.1759), George (b.1761), Carolina (b.1762), Jean (b.1764), James (b.1766), Agnes (b.1770), Alexander (b.1772), Mary (b.1774) (Utah)
2. 1783	Janet Landels, wife of John Kincaid, younger, of Kincaid (Service of Heirs)
3. 1783	John Kincaid of Kincaid, younger, married first Janet Landels, daughter of Robert Landels and Agnes Kincaid, before 1783 (OPB)
4. 1800	John Kincaid of Kincaid married secondly Cccilia Lennox in 1800 (OPB)
5. 1808	John Kincaid of Kincaid matriculated arms (Lyon Register)
6. 1811	Cecilia Lennox, wife of John Kincaid of Kincaid (Service of Heirs)
7. 1818	John Kincaid-Lennox, junior, son of Cecilia Lennox, wife of John Kincaid of Kincaid, who died 19 May 1817 (Service of Heirs)
8. 1833	Arms of John Lennox Kincaid-Lennox of Woodhead and Kincaid as heir male to late John Kincaid of Kincaid his father (Lyon Register)
9. 1833	John Lcnnox Kincaid-Lennox to his aunt Margaret Lennox of Woodhead (Service of Heirs)
10. 1857	Death of Captain John Kincaid-Lennox in Egypt (OPB and Army Lists)
11. 1859	Death of John Kincaid-Lennox. His heir married first Viscount Stragford and secondly the Hon Charles Spencer Bateman-Hanbury, who assumed additional surname of Kincaid-Lennox (Scottish Arms, Stodart)
12.	Tree of Kincaids of Kincaid and their relatives (Dennis Hornell)
13.	Notes on Kincaids of Kincaid (OPB)
14.	Tree provided by Madam Arabella Kincaid of Kincaid
15.	Letter from Gen William Kincaid to Prof Trevor Kincaid, 1901, with notes by OPB



GENEALOGICAL TABLE 11

THE  
KINKEAD-WEEKES  
FAMILY



**Note:**  
This genealogical table has been constructed from data supplied by Professor Marcus Kinkead-Weekes and other members of his family.

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*Bold figures denote illustrations.*

*For index of individual Kincaids, see the separate Index of Kincaids and their Wives.*

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# THIS I'LL DEFEND

## The Story of the Kincaids

In 1812 a disastrous fire swept through a store room in Scotland destroying family papers, portraits and possessions of the Kincaids of Kincaid. This irretrievable loss made it difficult for the family to trace its genealogical history and understand its origins. Are the Kincaids descended from Archil, the Northumbrian lord who fought William the Conqueror in 1089 before fleeing to Scotland, or from Gaelic roots? Who was the man who was given the lands of Kincaid by the Earl of Lennox in the thirteenth century? Did a Lord of Kincaid lead the successful assault on Edinburgh Castle in 1313 to wrest it from the English? When did Kincaids first move from Scotland to Ireland? These questions, and many more, have vexed Kincaid researchers for many generations.

Bill Kincaid has researched Kincaid family history over the last forty years and in this book he sets down the history of this ancient family with all its glory, its heroes and its black sheep. He traces the Kincaids of Kincaid, as well as those branches which flourished away from the family heartland: in Linlithgow, Falkirk, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Greenock; in Dublin and the Irish counties of Down, Londonderry, Donegal, Tyrone, Sligo, Antrim and Limerick; in Africa, India, the United States, Australia, Canada, Argentina and Holland. It is the story of a family which, over the course of centuries, changed from landowning barons, engaged in bloody feuds with their neighbours, into royal couriers, lawyers, city governors, doctors, churchmen, merchants, industrialists, soldiers, sailors and airmen, as well as assorted rogues and troublemakers. Their story is set in royal palaces and on battlefields, in merchant houses and shipbuilding companies, in law courts and council chambers, in surgeries and churches in many different lands, against complex political, ecclesiastic, military and economic backgrounds.

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